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Translations From MILITAER WESEN (38)

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DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER CALLS FOR INCREASED COMBAT READINESS

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 3-10

[Editorial by Admiral W. Verner, Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of the NVA Political Main Department]

/Text/ The successes of the SED military policy, coordinated with the CPSU and the other fraternal parties of the Warsaw Pact states, are among the outstanding achievements of the 25 years of GDR history. From the first day of its existence, our republic, led by the high ideals of proletarian internationalism and under the leadership of the working class and its Marxist-Leninist vanguard, has dedicated its growing political and economic strength as well as its developing national defense to service to the joint efforts on behalf of a reliable military safeguarding of socialism. In close comradeship-in-arms with the USSR and firmly integrated in the community of socialist states, the GDR has actively worked on enabling the military might of socialism decisively to contribute to the preservation of peace in Europe and to bring under control dangerous hotbeds of war in other parts of the world and to terminate military conflicts once enflamed. "It remains our duty," Comrade Erich Honecker, first secretary of the SED Central Committee, declared, "to continue to devote great attention to the consolidation of the unity of the socialist countries rallied around the Soviet Union and, at the same time, to strengthen our socialist defense alliance."¹

The experiences of the years since the founding of the GDR, which were rich in work and full of struggle, are confirming and corroborating the Marxist-Leninist insight that the fraternal alliance among our parties, states, peoples and armies is a fundamental condition for the realization of the vital interests of the socialist peoples and for the further progress of socialism/communism in security and peace.

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Protection of Socialism--a Collective Concern of All Socialist States

The founding of the GDR 25 years ago was a turning point in our people's history, the culmination of decades of struggle by the German working class and other progressive, democratic and antifascist patriots under the leadership of the communists. At the same time, the rise of our workers and peasants power was an internationally significant triumph for the forces of peace, democracy and socialism in the heart of Europe, achieved through the aid and support by the USSR and the other fraternal countries, a contribution to the promotion and development of the historic process, initiated by the Great Socialist October Revolution, of the worldwide transition from capitalism to socialism. Against the fierce resistance from international reaction, an important part of its dominion was forever torn away from German imperialism and militarism. Alongside the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries, our young republic crossed the threshold into the age of socialism and developed into a firm link of the socialist community of states. The comprehensive political, diplomatic, military, economic and scientific assistance by the Soviet Union made possible the rise by the GDR to become an internationally recognized, modern socialist industrial state with an efficient agriculture, highly developed science and culture, and a reliable national defense.

Under the military shield of the Soviet Army, in the years after the smashing of Hitler fascism and the founding of the GDR, the SED, through the creative application of the Leninist doctrine on the defense of the socialist fatherland, also solved, under complicated conditions, the military question, an essential partial question, of the socialist revolution. Under the leadership of the party, the working class proved itself capable of consciously and purposefully realizing the military protection of the socialist state as an objective inevitability in the establishment of socialist society. In line with the Marxist-Leninist insight that the defense of the power of the working class calls for regular, modern, socialist armed forces, the SED, with the founding of the GDR, initiated a gradual solution of the military question.

The building of socialism and the defense of the socialist fatherland were regarded by our party, at all times, as tasks that in essence are profoundly internationalist and must so be implemented. The SED followed the Leninist precept that the "workers absolutely need a close military and economic alliance, lest the capitalists would overwhelm and choke us one by one."² The SED imperturbably proceeded from the fact that the protection of the revolutionary achievements of the peoples establishing socialism/communism, under the leadership of the working class, in mutual fraternal cooperation and assistance, had become, under the conditions of the existence of the socialist world system, the collective concern of all socialist states. Every step we take, therefore, in the organizing and perfecting of national defense, has been determined and is being determined by the question of what is required for the common defense of socialist society.

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It was the Soviet Army which in a selfless manner set an example for an internationalist fulfillment of duty and in the early years of its development, protected our young state against all external enemies. That proved to be all the more important, as our party, in organizing our national defense, had to consider the international power ratio, the existence of two German states as well as the lines of their development potential, and other emerging political and historical factors. It could not support itself, as could the communist and workers parties in Poland, the CSSR, Yugoslavia and other fraternal countries, on antifascist military units that had emerged out of the people's liberation struggle against the fascist occupiers and formed the nuclei of the then developing socialist armed forces. The deeply rooted distrust of Europe's peoples toward German militarism, which was strengthened by developments in the FRG played a significant role in the postwar years. Such reservations were then also quite often applied to the GDR--in ignorance of the peace policy of our socialist state. The provisions of the Potsdam Agreement, strictly observed by the Soviet Union and by the GDR, also argued against immediately setting up a People's Army.

Under the secure shield of the Soviet armed forces, the SED therefore ensured after the end of the war and during the first years of socialist construction in the GDR, first of all, the internal protection by police forces, including garrisoned police units. The antisocialist, antinational thrust of the policy by the imperialist forces in the Western zones of occupation--later the FRG--of course remained no secret to the USSR, the other socialist states and the GDR. The attempts by reaction, supported by international monopoly capital, at blocking and reversing the socialist way of the GDR called for vigilance and a resolute defiance of innumerable provocations, acts of sabotage and of diversion, up to the smashing of a fascist coup in June 1953. In the mid-'50's, a situation came about which made it necessary, in line with the objective inevitabilities in the establishment and protection of socialism, to raise our state's national defense onto a higher level. German imperialism and militarism were being restored in the FRG at a rapid rate. In May 1955, the West German state was incorporated into NATO. The treaties of Paris made possible the FRG's undisguised rearmament and the forming of a 500,000-men army, and they opened the doors to the top echelons of the NATO Pact for the imperialist and militarist leadership forces. In response to the aggressive designs by the imperialist reaction, the Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist states concluded, in Warsaw, the "Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Treaty." In connection with it, the creation of socialist armed forces in the GDR became an immediate task.

The National People's Army--Part of the Socialist Defense Alliance

When the founding of the NVA [National People's Army] in the spring of 1956 initiated a new stage for the military protection of the GDR, our socialist

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armed forces' hour of birth already came under the sign of the Warsaw Pact, the joint defense efforts of the Soviet Union and the states and armies allied with it. There accrued to the NVA, which after a short formation and consolidation period was integrated with the united armed forces, the benefits of making use of the advantages of the socialist military alliance from the very first day of their military cooperation and comradeship-in-arms. In all developmental stages, the history of the NVA testifies to the internationalist collaboration and the joint growth of the socialist armed forces that rallied firmly around the Soviet Army, the strongest force in the Warsaw defense alliance.

During the years since, the NVA, thanks to constant assistance from the fraternal armies, was able to develop into a full and equal member of the united armed forces. We are proud that the NVA, in service to the socialist community, has been able to make a growing contribution, year after year, to curbing the aggressive imperialist forces, to the turn from the cold war to detente, and to the implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence. Along with the Soviet Army and the other fraternal armies, the members of the NVA have proven themselves in such complicated situations as in the summer of 1961 or in August 1968 as socialist patriots and internationalists possessing political maturity, ideological steadfastness and high military skills.

With their high combat readiness, the members of the army are implementing the demands placed on the NVA and the GDR border troops by the Eighth SED Congress, to secure peace and give reliable military protection to the borders of the GDR, together with the Soviet Army and the other armies of the Warsaw Pact member states. In this, the comradeship-in-arms with the armed forces of the USSR and the other states of the socialist community is "demanded by socialist internationalism and forms the firm foundation of our security."³

Fighting Strength and Combat Readiness--Criteria of Internationalist Military Fulfillment of Duty

The decisive demand placed by the SED, the working class, and all working people on their armed forces is that of the further development of our state's defense capability by means of the constantly growing combat readiness of the troops. Fighting strength and combat readiness are in the final analysis the criteria for how the NVA and the GDR border troops live up to their internationalist mission in the class conflict with imperialism and also ensure in the future, shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal armies, peaceful conditions for the creative work of the socialist peoples and a life of happiness under socialism/communism. In the sense of this humanistic task, the SED always informs the members of the NVA and the border troops of the GDR about newly maturing problems of combat readiness and the demands resulting from it for political education and combat

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training. Above all, the rapid development of socialist military affairs, the achievements of Soviet military science and technology, constantly create new conditions that have to be taken into account in political work and combat training. For that reason, the members of our armed forces are incessantly and purposefully striving for the fulfillment of the military tasks as assigned by the Eighth SED Congress.

They let themselves be guided by the proposition that the socialist armies can effectively contribute to rendering the process of detente irrevocable in the world only if they can curb the aggressive forces of imperialism through their military weight.

Socialism in our countries grew strong under the protection of the united armed forces of the Warsaw Pact. Its influence on international events brought it about that the tendency of the political easing of tension has now become the decisive element in the development of the situation on the European continent and everywhere else in the world. As the consultative political committee of the Warsaw Pact member states determined at its April conference this year, the enemies of international detente have, however, not given up. The most reactionary forces continue to be interested in the resumption of the cold war. A constant danger of aggression and war is coming from the imperialist social system. The arms race of imperialist states is continuing undiminished, broadening the material base for military confrontation. International conflicts could suddenly intensify and temporarily rekindle the political temperature. The possibility that local wars flare up again also still exists. Nor must one ignore in this connection the increasing political role the imperialist armies are playing in the planning by fascist-militarist circles. Reactionary military coups and the establishment of fascist dictatorships against all progressive sentiments by the peoples, as in Chile and some other Latin American states, are an expression of the efforts by international reaction to stop and roll back the movement of history.

The enemy would not have surrendered a single one of his positions, had he not been forced to do so by the superior strength of socialism and its military might. For that reason the socialist military alliance forged around the Soviet Army and Navy continues to be a decisive safeguard for peace and security. This comprehension, the awareness of the great responsibility for the security of the GDR and the entire socialist community of states, as well as the unshakeable conviction of the justice and victoriousness of our military task, are of special importance in the current situation of the class struggle because the most reactionary imperialist forces are carrying on their old adventurist policy aimed at destroying socialism by the force of arms.

This objective, conceived in long-range terms, is served by the intensified ideological diversion by imperialism, which represents the vain yet

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dangerous attempt to regain ground in the struggle for the hearts and minds of men. Anti-communism continues to be the core and ideological linchpin of all efforts by which the imperialist policy of aggression against the socialist states and all the progressive movements of the progressive forces in the capitalist countries are to be demagogically disguised. Politicians, military, and bourgeois ideologues of all shades leave no stone unturned for creating conditions, through enormous expenditures of efforts, that are to make it possible when the time comes for them to cancel the attained positive results of the political relaxation in the international situation and to use war as a means of politics. It is not surprising that the military policy and military might of socialism have especially come under fire in the enemy's ideological diversion. His massive ideological undermining activity against the armies of the socialist military alliance demonstrates once again that the Warsaw Pact armed forces constitute an insurmountable obstacle on the way to the reactionary forces, blocking their forward flight, their way out into military adventure.

Socialist Comradeship in Arms--Source of Military Strength and Power

The class enemy's ideological diversion founders on the unbreakable unity and cohesion of the united socialist armed forces. The comradeship-in-arms among the Soviet Army and the fraternal socialist armies firmly rallied around it is proving itself as the embodiment of proletarian internationalism in the military field. It is the specifically military expression of the new relations among the countries of the socialist community, which is based on the world-outlook of the working class, similar political and socioeconomic relations, and the socialist states' common goals. The history, scope and depth of the class comradeship in arms among the socialist armies are deeply rooted in the growing friendship connecting our parties, peoples and states.

What is important is to strengthen the conviction of all army members that only he thinks and lives as a socialist patriot who at the same time proves himself as a consistent internationalist in the military field. There is a mandatory commitment on all commanding officers, political organs, party and FDJ organizations to systematically further develop comradeship-in-arms relations on all levels, in their entire variety and breadth, and to relate them more and more to overall command activities. The potentials of fraternal cooperation are to be used to a still stronger degree in the further improvement of combat training. This calls for regularly analyzing, exploiting and applying the results and methods of joint training, the most progressive Soviet experiences in the implementation of training programs, and other theoretical and practical military insights as well as the most effective methods for physical training.

The political organs have a great responsibility for strengthening the comradeship-in-arms with the Soviet Army. In their capacity as leadership

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party organs they have the obligation to make a constantly growing contribution to exemplary internationalist cooperation with the political organs of the fraternal armies. In particular it is their duty to constantly deepen the military-political content in the relations between the NVA and the USSR armed forces and to turn every step forward, every joint measure, into progress in internationalist education.

The comradeship-in-arms with the Soviet Army has become a matter of the heart and an everyday affair for the members of the NVA, as the result of target-oriented political-ideological propaganda work and of the practical military cooperation with the Soviet armed forces stationed in Germany. This is proven, prominently, by the infatigable efforts of tens of thousands of soldiers, noncoms, officer candidates and officers, dedicating themselves, in Thaelmann's spirit, to the defense of the socialist fatherland, to consolidating the friendship with the Soviet Union, and to demonstrating daily the socialist comradeship-in-arms through high political and military performance.

We may say with justification and with pride in our anniversary year, 25 years after the founding of the GDR: The military policy of the SED, imbued with internationalist spirit, has stood up well. The GDR, the great achievements by our working class and people, have always received reliable military protection. All conditions exist for us also to meet in an exemplary manner in the years to come the military class task assigned by the party and by our socialist workers and peasants state, shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Army and the other armies of the Warsaw Pact states.

FOOTNOTES

1. "The SED - PVAP Fighting League, Engine of Our Progress," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (B Edition), 9 June 1974.
2. V. I. Lenin, "Werke," (Works), Vol 30, Berlin, 1961, p 286.
3. Erich Honecker, "Central Committee Report to the Eighth SED Congress," Berlin, 1971, p 68.

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DETENTE SEEN FAVORING DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 11-13

[By Bruno Mahlow]

/Text/ In the development of international relations a turn is taking place at present from the cold war to detente and to the implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence of states with differing social orders. These positive changes are principally an expression and result of the long years of consistent struggle by the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community of states. They are the result of joint action by the fraternal socialist countries, the communist and workers parties and all progressive forces in the world toward realizing the peace program announced by the 24th CPSU Congress.

This world political change was decisively prepared by the changes in the power ratio in favor of peace and socialism and by the universally growing political, economic, and military power and the economic and sociopolitical rise of socialism as it truly exists. The changes taking place currently in the international relations can only be understood from the vantage point of the struggle between the two lines in world politics after the victory of the Great Socialist October Revolution. Socialism presents the genuine basis for realizing the peoples' desire for peace. Through the enormous upswing of true socialism in all areas of public life, including the military domain, the imperialist politicians were forced to give up their policy of strength, in which they had long been engaged. Today, all peace loving and progressive forces in the world have greater possibilities for carrying out their goals.

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Since the late '60's, imperialist military and politicians, in view of the new international power ratio, have been talking of a "strategic parity" in the military balance of power. It hides the admission of the bankruptcy of the "policy of strength" and the recognized need to accommodate to the new world situation. The new world political situation and the active peace policy by the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community of states caused a number of leading politicians in the United States and other imperialist states to include more realistic viewpoints in their foreign policy conceptions. Today they are forced to recognize that there is no alternative to peaceful coexistence and that a thermonuclear world war would end in a thermonuclear catastrophe. The principles of peaceful coexistence could be written into agreements of international law. This is visibly demonstrated by the Soviet-U.S. agreement on the prevention of nuclear war and by the agreed "principles on the bases of the mutual relations between the United States and the USSR."

The process of detente is farthest advanced in Europe. Here the main forces of socialism are concentrated and its influence is brought to bear most effectively. An important segment of the international working class, the revolutionary force of our epoch, lives and struggles in the capitalist countries of Europe. The peoples of Europe not only had their bitter experiences of two wars, they today also have strong potentials for making the peace on our continent secure. Today, in the age of the scientific-technical revolution with a many times higher state of development in modern weapons technology than in previous wars, the effects of nuclear warfare would be incomparably more fatal, in fact, such war would seriously threaten the existence of mankind as such. Establishing a system of collective security in Europe thus has become a categorical necessity, a key question for maintaining world peace. In the struggle for this vital aim, two powerful currents come together at present: The active struggle by the socialist community of states and all other peace forces against the danger of another war, for detente and the peoples' security on the one hand, and the revolutionary struggle by the working class and all other progressive forces in the capitalist countries, on the other.

Successes in the struggle for securing peace do of course by no means occur automatically even despite the changed power ratio in the world. Rather, it requires the active preparedness and conscious action of all progressive forces. The communists in the socialist and capitalist countries in Europe are taking concrete steps toward mobilizing the masses for the struggle on behalf of these humanistic goals. The coordinated foreign policy by the states of the socialist community rallied around the Soviet Union is--as many practical results have shown--of decisive importance to a purposeful transformation of Europe into a continent of peace and cooperation on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence among states with differing social orders.

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Communists, the Initiators of the Peace Offensive

The foreign policy of the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community always proceeded from the proposition that peace and the responsibility of the peoples for securing the peace are inseparably connected with each other. A straight line leads from the Leninist decree on peace to the peace program announced by the 24th CPSU Congress. As early as December 1933, a decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU(B) announced the struggle for collective security in Europe to be a main task of Soviet foreign policy. In accordance with this guideline, the government of the Soviet Union in the '30's developed a cohesive concept, in line with prevailing conditions at the time, for obtaining that goal and advocated the signing of nonaggression treaties with West European states. Such initiatives, however, found no support among the ruling circles of the Western powers which thereby, factually, granted fascist Germany the freedom to move against the East, favoring it in its preparations for aggression.

After World War II, the Soviet Union continued its consistent course toward creating a firm European security system. Jointly with the fraternal socialist countries, it submitted numerous concrete proposals in the '50's and '60's. At the 1966 conference of their consultative political committee, the Warsaw Pact member states first came out with the proposal to summon a conference of the European states.

The agreed position by the communist and workers parties of Europe in the struggle for European security became conspicuously documented at the important Karlovy Vary conference in April 1967. As a result of their exchange of views, the participants adopted a declaration that contained a concrete action program for European security. As main aims for creating a system of collective security in Europe, it stipulated: The recognition of the borders created as a result of World War II, including those between the two German states; the normalization of relations between the FRG and the GDR; the international recognition of the GDR; the conclusion of a nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty; the setting up zones free of nuclear arms; and a reduction of armaments agreement.

The representatives of the Marxist-Leninist parties in Europe proceeded from the proposition that in the implementation of peaceful coexistence in the relations between the European states, the masses--above all, the working class--would have to play a decisive role. The declaration emphasized the need for unified action on the part of the Marxist-Leninist forces: "The stronger the unity and solidarity among the communist and workers parties in Europe and the entire world, the more effective is our struggle."¹

In the constructive peace program adopted by the 24th CPSU Congress, the proposals by the communist and workers parties of Europe were rendered

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concrete and were further developed. The program points the way that must be taken in order to make a fundamental change to relaxation and peace on our continent, based on the definite recognition of the territorial changes in Europe in consequence of World War II. This program has since proven itself in reality as the "action program of the socialist community, of the communist world movement, and is a basis to all who are prepared to resolve, from a realistic position, the problems that will ensure peace for the peoples for the foreseeable future."²

The agreements concluded by the Soviet Union, Poland, the GDR, and the CSSR with the FRG, the Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin, and the enforcing of the GDR's unlimited international equality mark the progress that has been reached in Europe. The agreements mentioned set down essential principles of European security in internationally and legally binding terms, such as the inviolability of the existing borders, the renunciation of the use or threat of force, the sovereign equality of the states and the non-interference in their internal affairs. Their being strictly observed creates favorable preconditions for detente and peaceful cooperation in Europe. That is borne out by the development of the relations between the USSR and France, which are truly a model for the development of cooperation between states with differing social orders, and also by the positive changes in the relations between the Soviet Union and its allies with other capitalist states.

A concentrated expression of the positive changes that have taken place on the European continent in most recent times is the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. "The mere fact," L. I. Brezhnev announced at the Moscow Congress of World Peace Forces, "that this conference did assemble, that virtually all European states as well as the United States and Canada are participating in it, and that there the questions of peace and security in Europe and of the initiation of peaceful cooperation are being jointly discussed, is in itself a considerable achievement."³

That conference has already done a great deal of work. There still are attempts, however, to complicate and delay the further negotiations. The USSR and the other participating socialist states are doing what they can to lead the conference to success as rapidly as possible and with great authority vested in it. Led by the principle that political detente is to be supported by appropriate measures in the military field, the socialist states are approaching equally constructively the negotiations going on in Vienna at present on the reduction of troops and armaments in Central Europe.

The successes in the implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence make clear: The coordinated foreign policy by the socialist community of states is an important impulse for the transformation of international relations. It demonstrates that the communists' international policy constitutes a key aspect of the class struggle against imperialism.

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This policy is meeting with lasting resonance from all peace loving and democratic forces because the nature and goal of the socialist states' foreign policy, determined by the socialist character of their social order, most deeply agree with the interests of the peoples.

The participants of the April conference of the consultative political committee of the Warsaw Pact states observed that the tendency toward detente is at present the determining element in the development of the situation on the European continent. One must, however, not close one's eyes to the fact that the opponents of international detente, the forces of imperialism and reaction, "have not given up and are trying to counter the process of detente, to block this process."⁴ That expresses itself in particular in the activation of the military forces of NATO. The military budgets of the member countries in that imperialist military bloc keep rising, growing annually by a total of approximately 2 to 3 billion dollars. Even under the conditions of international detente, thus, the imperialist circles are intensifying the fateful process of material war preparation. Recently, influential political forces have become more active which are turning against the positive tendencies in international affairs and are trying to revive the cold war. Anticomunist--mainly anti-Soviet--agitation is intensifying. Among the main forces that are opposing international detente are also the Peking leaders.

Detente Creates More Favorable Conditions for Class Struggle

Early this year the representatives of the communist and workers parties of the capitalist countries in Europe met in Brussels in order to analyze the new sociopolitical situation in the developed capitalist countries and to draw appropriate conclusions for their further political activity. The conference underscored the importance of the decisive changes that have taken place in international relations on the European continent, and they observed that "today, more comprehensive possibilities exist to bring about a change toward profound democratic transformations of society in the various capitalist countries and in Western Europe altogether."⁵ The more and more comprehensive implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence proves to be, in practice, an important factor in the class struggle.

It creates favorable external conditions for strengthening socialism and for a broad display of its advantages. It favors the propagation of the achievements of socialism as it really exists and a higher intensity of its international radiating power. At the same time, it makes the work of the extreme reactionary aggressive imperialist circles harder. The possibilities for imperialism to find a way out of its inner contradictions by intensifying its external aggressiveness are being restrained, and favorable conditions are being created for pushing back the influence by the military-industrial complex. The struggle for peace and for preventing

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another world war today involves an increasingly larger circle of people of diverse social origins and ideological-political orientation. This gives the Marxist-Leninist parties in the capitalist countries the great responsibility to unite into an effective force the political forces stemming from various classes and strata. It demands of the communists a policy which is solid in principle and, at the same time, patient and flexible vis-a-vis these alliance partners in the struggle against their common joint enemy. The participants at the Brussels conference gave great attention to the creation of an anti-imperialist unity front by all democratic forces. They stressed that a broad policy of alliance with all progressive and peace loving forces of the people offered a permanent strategic orientation for the current developmental phase as well as for the later building of socialism. At present, the action unity of the anti-imperialist forces is assuming qualitatively new features.

The cooperation between communists and socialists, or social democrats, is of great importance here, on the national as well as international level. The Marxist-Leninist parties, in their alliance policy, are taking full account of the fact that the socialist parties have a considerable influence on broad strata of the population, especially also on the working class, in capitalist countries. New possibilities for cooperation between communists and socialists also come from the willingness, found among social democratic parties too, to collaborate with the socialist countries in the interest of consolidating peace and collective security in Europe.

The communist parties, in their program conceptions on antimonomolist transformation, more and more also consider the role of the armed forces as the most important power tool of the bourgeois state.

The counterrevolutionary events in Chile again are showing, emphatically, that the armed forces, as instruments of the ruling circles of the bourgeoisie, can have a decisive function in defeating an organized people's movement.

The communists are paying careful attention to the development going on within the armed forces. They are supporting all progressive-democratic tendencies, especially the views of those patriotic forces in the armies that are open-minded to possible democratic transformations.

Indications of it exist in the changed political situation in Portugal, where patriotic officers are indicating their intentions to overcome the fascist system of government and to grant national independence to the Portuguese colonial areas in Africa. The revolutionaries must always try to deprive conservative and reactionary forces of their influence on soldiers and officers, thereby to isolate those forces within the armed organs that are affiliated with the ruling bourgeoisie.

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The sharpening of crisis in the capitalist countries need not lead to a leftist trend automatically, however. One cannot overlook the efforts by rightist extremist forces to misuse for their own purposes the dissatisfaction by broad strata. In the imperialist countries today, the masses, in the struggle for the defense of their social and democratic achievements are facing to an increasing extent, the machinations of the reactionary circles of the monopoly bourgeoisie and the growing fascist danger. The working people of Portugal, thus, are engaged in difficult struggle which aims at the complete elimination of fascist dictatorship.

In Italy, the working class and all other patriotic forces are bravely and resolutely defending themselves against neofascist excesses. From these dangers the communist and workers parties receive their special responsibility to prevent rightist forces from prevailing and from regaining a dominating influence on the foreign policy of the capitalist states concerned.

Despite temporary defeats in individual sectors, the democratic movement in the capitalist countries continues to be in an upsurge. That is shown, among other things, by the great success of the leftist forces in France, gaining almost half of the votes in the recent presidential elections, by the positive results in the divorce law referendum in Italy, and also by the first steps toward a democratic anti-fascist revolution in Portugal. All these are visual proofs for the increased possibilities of the popular forces in their struggle against reaction and fascism.

The progress made in recent years toward the easing of tension in the international situation is obvious. In spite of that, the course of events in the international arena remains complicated and extremely contradictory. Each success in the struggle for lasting peace is obtainable only through stubborn conflict. Imperialism surrenders no positions without it.

In the foreground, therefore, stands, as the most important task, the consolidation of the positive changes in international relations, and they have to be made irreversible. This requires above all, in the view of the Marxist-Leninist parties: Creating systems of collective security in all important areas in the world; limiting and abolishing the arms race; developing an all inclusive economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation among all interested states; and further developing the system of international relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence and of cooperation in equality.

The Importance of the Ideological Struggle is Growing

The growing role of the ideological struggle is making higher demands on the Marxist-Leninist forces. One will have to effectively continue, under

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changed conditions, under the conditions in which the policy of peaceful coexistence is being implemented, the ideological confrontation and combine the ideological offensive with the peace offensive. The ideologues of anticommunism are intensifying their propaganda against the real socialism and the communist parties. They seek to discredit the ideals of socialism which is becoming the desirable goal for more and more people in the capitalist countries. They seek to disorganize the progressive forces, to promote illusions, and to deflect the attention of the people's masses from the ills of capitalist society. On the one hand, they are posing as "peace makers" and as the "inventors" of peaceful coexistence and are, on the other hand, intensifying anticommunist agitation. The communists' ideological activity aims at freeing the working masses from the pernicious influence of bourgeois ideology and at educating them in the spirit of the progressive ideas of our times. The Marxist-Leninist forces are offensively engaged in an ideological confrontation with opportunistic and revisionist forces of all shades. They at the same time are opposing decisively all views that are directed against peaceful coexistence and are meant to justify a return to the cold war. The communist and workers parties regard as their priority task the struggle against any tendencies of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism. They are unmasking them as phenomena that directly oppose the more and more strongly prevailing process of international detente.

From firm Marxist-Leninist positions based on principle, the communist condemn the intention of the Maoist leadership to stop the process of international detente. The communist and workers parties are describing the policy of the current Chinese leadership in the correct terms applying to it:

As a complete break with Marxism-Leninism and a great obstacle to social progress in the world. Facts prove that any partner is welcome to the Maoists who supports their shameful intention to hurt the socialist community of states and the communist world movement, especially the Soviet Union.

The communist and workers parties with the same determination reject attacks by various ultraleftist groups directed against the peace policy of the socialist states.

In its essence as well as in its consequences, detente is not only a world political phenomenon but a sociopolitical one as well, a new important stage in the development of the worldwide revolutionary class struggle.

The common struggle of all progressive, democratic forces for the preservation and consolidation of peace will promote the process of international detente and create more favorable conditions for the struggle on behalf of social progress in the world.

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Since the 1969 international conference, the international political and ideological unity of the communists has no doubt reached a qualitatively higher level. The cooperation among the fraternal parties has noticeably been strengthened. There is far-reaching agreement today in the views by the fraternal parties with respect to the most important issues of the revolutionary movement and the anti-imperialist struggle. Our party favors the summoning of new collective consultations among the communist and workers parties, including a new conference of the Marxist-Leninist parties of Europe. Such all-European forum of the communists should analyze the newly developed sociopolitical situation on the continent and work out a new anti-imperialist action program which will bring further millions of people fighting against imperialism and for peace, democracy and social progress over onto the side of the communists.

FOOTNOTES

1. "For Peace and Security in Europe; Declaration of the Conference of the Communist and Workers Parties of Europe in Karlovy Vary," "For Peace and Security in Europe. Conference of the Communist and Workers Parties of Europe on Questions of European Security, Karlovy Vary, 24-26 April 1967," Berlin, 1967, p 20.
2. Erich Honecker, "Full Steam Ahead in the Further Realization of the Eighth SED Congress Resolutions. From the Politburo Report to the Ninth session of the SED Central Committee," Berlin, 1973, p 7.
3. L. I. Brezhnev, "Speech on the World Congress of Peace Forces, 26 October 1973," "Peace--a Work for all People; Speeches and Documents of the World Congress of Peace Forces," Moscow, 1973, p 13.
4. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (B Edition), 10 April 1974.
5. "Political Declaration of the Conference of the Communist Parties of the Capitalist Countries of Europe," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (B Edition), 1 February 1974.

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GDR REGARDED AS CONTINUATION OF GERMAN PROGRESSIVE TRADITION

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 26-32

[By Col Dr P. Heider and Lt Col Dr R. Falkenberg]

/Text/ The founding of the GDR in October 1949 marked a turn in the history of the German people and Europe. In alliance with the working peasantry, the intelligentsia, and other workers, the working class established its political rule and began the construction of a socialist society. "The creation and development of the GDR is the lawful result and crowning achievement of the centuries of progressive struggle of the German people, especially of the working class under its revolutionary party."¹

The change introduced with the founding of the GDR is at the same time characterized by the fact that it was consummated during the process of the development of the world socialist system. The growing strength and attraction of our state results above all from its being anchored in the fraternal alliance of socialist states formed around the Soviet Union.²

The national and international points of departure in the founding and development of the GDR are essentially for the preservation and cultivation of the progressive and revolutionary tradition in our state and its armed forces. The unity of patriotism and internationalism is to be worked out as an essential feature of these traditions, especially their exploration and cultivation. That makes it possible to utilize the progressive heritage of our people even more effectively for the patriotic and international education of GDR youth, especially those who serve in the army.

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Humanistic and Progressive Ideas Are Becoming Reality

To every citizen of our state it is unmistakable that "the GDR is today, as a state, the embodiment of the best traditions of German history."³ It is the only just state heritage of the great humanistic and progressive traditions which the German people have produced in its long and variegated history. Only under the condition that power belonged to the working class has it been possible to realize the humanistic ideals of the past. This tradition reaches far back into history. To this tradition belong the peasant revolts of the Middle Ages and the struggle of revolutionary democrats in the 19th century. It embraces the active work of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, August Bebel and Wilhelm Liebknecht in the workers' movement, the struggle of the KPD under the leadership of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, Wilhelm Pieck and Ernst Thaelmann, and of sympathetic forces hostile to imperialism, militarism, and fascism, and it embraces the heroic deeds of the antifascist resistance as well.

This line of development reaches through to the democratic and socialist renovation of the foundations of existence of our people. Under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party, the humanistic ideas of the past have for the first time in the history of the German people become a social reality. Johann Gottfried Herder's standing up for a "patriotism associated with the people" which finds its fulfillment in the "universal association with other peoples," or longing for peace as the natural condition of human society, and also Goethe's yearning to stand "on free soil with a free people" can change from a dream to social reality only under the conditions of a socialist society.

An essential feature of the progressive and revolutionary traditions from the history of our people is also the struggle of the popular masses for creating a people's army in the spirit of social progress.

The GDR, however, is not only the state embodiment of the progressive traditions of the German people. It is in an historical, qualitatively new development which is characterized by the world-wide transition from capitalism to socialism initiated by the Great Socialist October Revolution and by the entry of the GDR into the age of socialism. The history of the GDR is the history of victorious people's revolution. A component part of this historical development is the reliable military protection of the socialist state and social order of the GDR, the process of the creation and development of the NVA [National People's Army] as a socialist coalition army.

The people of the GDR and their combat forces have their own experience and traditions which are fundamentally different from those of the FRG and its armed forces. Our traditions reflect the inseparable unity of socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism. They attest to the common

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struggle of the international working class for the building of socialism and communism, to the expansion and development of the socialist commonwealth and its military coalition, to the class confrontation with imperialism in our day. In these traditions, expression is given to the close community between the SED and the CPSU, the fraternal alliance between the GDR and the USSR and their armed forces, the close association with all the states united in the Warsaw Pact and with their armies.

The progressive traditions arise and develop in the selfless struggle of the popular masses, above all, of the working class and its revolutionary party against the reactionary ruling classes hostile to the people, especially against system of Junkers and imperialistic bourgeoisie, against Prussian-German militarism and fascism, but they also develop in the struggle against the ruling classes in the FRG and policies, pursued by them over two decades, of trying to isolate the GDR internationally and maintaining an open enmity toward our state. The striving of the working class and the popular masses for social progress and socialism is therefore always tied to the struggle against the reactionary traditions of exploitation and subservience as well as that of threats and enslavement through expansion and wars of conquest.

NVA Cultivates Progressive Military Traditions

As the armed instrument of power of the working class and its allies, the NVA is a firm component of our state power and has an essential role in its peaceful, successful development. Corresponding to its class character, the NVA is the inheritor and carrier of progressive and revolutionary military traditions. Characteristic of these traditions is the fact that the cultivation of progressive military elements and lines of development is constantly embedded in the totality of the political, cultural and scientific achievements of our people. In embracing these traditions, which were founded by the German peasant armies of the 16th century, the Prussian reformers and the liberation army of 1813/14 as well as by the armed uprisings of the petty bourgeois-democratic forces in the revolution of 1848/49, the NVA is unambiguously oriented toward the essential politically progressive, democratic and antimilitaristic features of these traditions. This presupposes a critical adoption of this heritage and also a conflict with the abuse of parts of this tradition on the part of the Bundeswehr. Central to the NVA's cultivation of tradition are the traditions of the revolutionary workers' movement, in which the working class preserves and continues everything that is progressive in the class conflict. The military traditions of the revolutionary workers' movement arising from the struggle for the conquest of political power of the working class are very significant for the new traditions of our army, which came into being in the struggle to establish reliable military protection for the socialist order of state and society and for the peaceful work and life of the citizens of our state. The traditions of the workers' movement and the new traditions of our worker-peasant state attest to the close bond

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between people and army, to the spirit of socialist internationalism and fraternity in arms which in essence defines the relations of the fraternal allies of the socialist military coalition of the Warsaw Pact.

The relation of the working class and its Marxist-Leninist party to traditions, to the progressive spiritual values and cultural treasure of our people was characterized by Comrade Erich Honecker in the words: "Of history, culture, and language we will sacrifice nothing that is worth preserving and cultivating, nothing that corresponds to humanistic and revolutionary traditions."⁴

On the Concept of Tradition in Our State

Our concept of tradition is based on the scientific world outlook of Marxism-Leninism. Its point of departure is that traditions came into being in the class struggle and consequently have a class character and that in the dependence of its role in life and society, distinctions must be made between progressive and revolutionary tradition and antiquated and reactionary tradition. Traditions are socially determined manifestations of social consciousness which develop and are defined by a class ideology. They are based on an image of history held by the ruling class and are subordinate to this image. On the other hand, the choice and interpretation of traditions as well as their conscious cultivation--all determined by class interest--contribute to the formation of a specific image of history. Doubtless, the concept of tradition can have wide meanings. Essential, however, is its social and political content and not merely the fact that, in speaking of tradition, we are dealing with customs, rules, and norms of behavior which have grown historically and have been handed down from generation to generation.

Bourgeois ideologues of the FRG deny the class character of traditions and claim that traditions are general "values," both newly arising as well as coming out of the process of past historical development. They attempt to characterize traditions, which are allegedly independent of class, as a criterion of the nation,⁵ in order thereby to support the fiction of an alleged continuous existence of a "unified German nation."

But also in regard to the nation, traditions are stamped by the class struggle and the "class struggle between bourgeoisie and proletariat always included the struggle for the leadership of the nation in the history of our people as well as of other peoples."⁶ It is indeed an outstanding tradition of the history of the revolutionary German workers' movement that it always set the socialist alternative over against the disastrous anti-national policy of the exploiter classes, that (as part of the international workers' movement) it set its sights on the future interests of the nation in that it consistently represented the class goals of the proletariat.

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"Our worker-peasant power, and the developing socialist nation in the GDR crown the heroic and sacrificial struggle of the revolutionary German working class. They are the visible proof that the main content of our epoch, the transition from capitalism to socialism, is being realized successfully on German soil."⁷

The deciding condition showing that the socialist nation is being developed in the GDR was the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat associated with the founding of our republic, and the fundamental renewal of the material and ideological conditions of existence and life of our people in the process of the building up and flowering of the socialist nation.⁸

Also, the trend toward ever stronger rapprochement with the fraternal socialist nations has an historical basis in these traditions. An essential feature of our traditions, especially of the revolutionary traditions of the working class, consists of the solidarity with peoples fighting for their freedom and of the fraternal bonds with the international working class. Of especial significance is the firm friendship with the commonwealth of states with close ties to the Soviet Union.

In this way the progressive heritage is reflected in the traditions of our socialist state and in the process of the creation of a socialist nation in the GDR--a heritage which is consistently being further developed by the working class and its allies.

As part of this heritage is the historic mission of the NVA whose main task consists of "protecting the state borders, the territory, the air space, and the coastline of the GDR as well as the allied socialist states in common with the Soviet Army and the other fraternal armies of the Warsaw Pact."⁹

The fundamental changes in international power relationships has led to a situation where today realistic possibilities exist of preventing the permanent danger of war emanating from imperialism by the coordinated offense in the foreign policy of the socialist states and by the constantly high combat readiness of the socialist combat forces. With the growing strength and attraction of socialism, the ever closer unity of the countries of the socialist commonwealth around the Soviet Union, the presence of a superior socialist military power, the continued development of the national liberation movement, and the growing strength of the democratic workers' movement in the capitalistic countries, there arises for the first time in the history of mankind genuine conditions for making a social reality of the thousand year old dream of peoples for peace and security.

The fulfillment of this dream, which is reflected in the political demands of revolutionaries as well as in the works of art, literature and music of

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the past, and in the striving of the revolutionary workers' movement for a new socialist order of peace and justice, had to remain unfulfilled as long as the capitalist system of exploitation was able alone to determine the fate of mankind.

Only real socialism, which started on its victorious course with the Great October revolution, created the preconditions for overcoming the contradiction between spirit and power which experienced its sharpest peak in imperialism. The historic change, which was introduced by the Great October Socialist Revolution, consists among other things of the fact that a socialist order was created in which peace is not only the central core, but for which peace is at the same time a fundamental condition for its development. As history teaches, socialism does not come about as the result of fervent feeling or well-meaning appeals. It is the result of the victorious struggle of the working class and its allies led by the Marxist-Leninist party. While the working class takes away the basis of exploitation and oppression of man by man by eliminating private ownership of the means of production, it at the same time eliminates the social-economic causes of war. "To the degree that the exploitation of one individual by another is eliminated, the exploitation of one nation by another is also eliminated. The hostile attitude of nations toward one another is part and parcel of the contradictions of classes within a nation."¹⁰

The fact that such a fundamental social upheaval is not consummated at one time and in all countries but rather in a long historical process which is characterized by the simultaneous existence of socialist and aggressive imperialist states, by the struggle between socialism and imperialism, compels the socialist states to create powerful material and moral potential, to curb the warmongers and to create the most favorable foreign political conditions for the construction of socialism/communism. The Leninist precept that a revolution is worth its salt only when it knows how to defend itself has been confirmed again and again in history right up to the present.

Revolutionary Heritage and Military Mission

The concrete content of the military mission of the working class is defined in the present by the following factors:

First, by the responsibility of the working class for the defense of peace and by the realistic possibility of doing justice to this responsibility. The stronger the military power of socialism, and the greater the fighting strength and combat readiness of the allied armies, so much the surer will peace be, so much the more thoroughly will it be possible to force imperialism to renounce military adventures and accept peaceful coexistence;

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Second, by the constant attempt of imperialism to wriggle out of this situation forced on it, to undermine the current efforts toward detente and return to the Cold War. It is the aggressive essence of imperialism constantly to threaten peace and social progress.

The experience of history teaches that historically superannuated classes doomed to extinction according to the laws of social change never leave the stage of history voluntarily. Even today it is attempting to stop social progress with streams of blood. Two devastating world wars and a chain of local wars and brutal terror against the workers' movement are charged to the inhumane blood account of imperialism. It would continue its barbaric campaign of destruction unceasingly if it were not for the strong power of the Soviet Union and the whole socialist commonwealth which checks it.

The high degree of combat readiness, the material-technical and moral superiority of the Soviet armed forces and the other socialist armies united in the framework of the socialist military coalition into a firm fraternal alliance prove to be the peace preserving factor in our times. V. I. Lenin as early as the 9th Congress of the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik) in 1920 pointed to the connection between peace and socialist military might when he said: "...our steps toward peace must be coordinated with harnessing all our military power...Our army gives the assurance that the imperialist powers will not undertake the slightest effort, any kind of attack...."¹¹

In his work, "The Military Program of the Proletarian Revolution," V. I. Lenin characterized the interconnection of socialism, military might, and peace in these words: "Only after the proletariat has disarmed the bourgeoisie, can it throw its weapons on the scrap heap without betraying its world historical task, and that it will do for certain at such a time--but no sooner."¹² It is thus evident that in the epoch of the transition from capitalism to socialism, the realization of the historic mission of the working class is the fundamental condition not only to preserve the progressive heritage of history but to make it become social reality. This holds true also for the idea of the many-faceted unfolding of the human personality so closely associated with the humanistic and revolutionary heritage.

The harmony of personal and state interests which becomes possible only in the process of forming socialism, and also the resultant harmony of the military mission of the armed forces with the interests of the people and the individual form the basic condition for being able to realize, with the realization of the people's sovereignty in the GDR, the progressive ideas of Ernst Moritz Arndt, Gerhard David Scharnhorst and other outstanding patriots concerning progressive armed forces rooted in the people.

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The readiness of members of the socialist armed forces to fulfill their military mission is an expression of their awareness of their rights and duties as citizens of the state, of sovereignty of people in action and at the same time an essential feature of the socialist character of our army.

In socialist competition are united in a concrete fashion social necessity inherent in the military mission and the conscious creative initiative of the military collective and the individual armed forces member. In its slogan: "Soldier's Mission XXV--like Thaelmann resolute in battle, always prepared for combat!", socialist competition demonstrates visibly that with us revolutionary heritage and the revolutionary present are in harmony.

With their achievements, which members of the NVA complete in socialist competition for the constant heightening of combat readiness, they align themselves worthily with the great mass initiative of the working class and the whole people to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our republic in a worthy fashion. In that way they act in the interest of the historical task of the socialist armed forces and show themselves to be the conscious preservers and continuers of the duty-bound revolutionary and humanistic heritage of our people.

FOOTNOTES

1. (Twenty-five Years of the GDR--A Quarter Century of Struggle for Peace, Democracy, and Socialism) In: Theses and Proclamation of the National Council of the GDR National Front on the 25th Anniversary of the GDR. Berlin 1974, p 7.
2. Ibid., p 6.
3. Honecker, E., Continuously Forward in the Further Realization of the Decisions of the Eighth SED Congress. From the Report of the Politburo at the Ninth Meeting of the SED Central Committee. Berlin 1973, p 21.
4. Ibid.
5. Kreusel, D., "Nation und Vaterland in der Militaerpresse der DDR" (Nation and Fatherland in the Military Press of the GDR). Stuttgart 1971, p 118.
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OBJECTIVES OF GDR FOREIGN POLICY DESCRIBED

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 33-38

[By Dr Ruth Heinze]

/Text/ For 25 years the GDR has been the subject of international law. The first state officially to recognize the GDR was the USSR, which opened diplomatic relations with the GDR 15 October 1949.

The GDR from the first day of its existence and in firm brotherhood with the Soviet Union pursued a policy of peace, security, and international cooperation. "Friendship with the Soviet Union forms the basis for many-sided, continuous development of the GDR, for guaranteeing its independence as a sovereign state, for insuring the most favorable external conditions for the peaceful work of construction of its workers."¹

As an inseparable component of the socialist commonwealth, the GDR counters the imperialistic policy of Cold War and military confrontation with its own efforts to solve basic political problems constructively and to establish a policy of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems.

At the same time, it undertook to protect its socialistic achievements. The existence of the GDR and the active peace policy of our country called forth the bitter resistance of imperialism, especially of the FRG. In the international arena this was reflected in machinations designed to eliminate the GDR and weaken socialism by diplomatic and political blockades, contrary to international law, against our republic. It took a long and difficult struggle by the GDR, the USSR, and all fraternal states to prepare

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the defeat of the revanchist policy. At the Eighth SED Congress, the strengthening of the international position of the GDR was designated as a pressing task of our foreign political activity. Comrade Erich Honecker emphasized: "As more and more states establish diplomatic relations with the GDR, we greet the development not only because of the great mutual good that arises thereby, but also because it is a contribution to establishing the principle of peaceful coexistence in the life of peoples and states. This development has shown that all destructively intended doctrines against the internationally legal position of GDR sovereignty--however it may be described--will ultimately be doomed to failure. No one can swim against the current of time indefinitely."²

Today, in the 25th year of the GDR's existence, we can state with satisfaction that the foreign political goals set at the 8th Party Congress have been successfully realized. The diplomatic and political blockade against the GDR and FRG's Hallstein and Scheel doctrines formulated expressly for this purpose have suffered a total fiasco. The world wide international recognition of the GDR reached its high point in the acceptance of the GDR into the United Nations. As the permanent representative of the USSR in the UN emphasized, this event reflects "the great and not retrogressive changes which have taken place, thanks to the efforts of peace-loving and progressive forces, above all, the countries of the socialist commonwealth, during the postwar period in today's world."³

Attesting to the basic change and the new quality of the GDR's international position is the significant fact that the GDR as a sovereign, independent, socialist state has found in the whole world its full recognition under international law, a recognition that has been due her for the past 25 years. Further, the acceptance of the GDR and the FRG into the UN confirms that the border between the two German states has been made final under international law, that the process of ending the postwar period introduced by the system of European treaties and the Four Power Agreement on West Berlin has reached its conclusion. The great difficulties caused by international discrimination against the GDR in our state's foreign relations--difficulties which worked to our disadvantage in many sectors--have been or will be overcome. The GDR, which until now relied on the good offices of the socialist countries, above all, the USSR, in many problems, can now, after its international recognition, make an even more effective contribution to the commonly defined foreign policy of the fraternal socialist countries.

The significant changes in the foreign political position of the GDR are embedded in the historic turning point which was reached since the beginning of the 70's thanks to the growing power of the USSR, thanks to its constructive and realistic peace policy in international relations, which was supported actively by the fraternal socialist countries.

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This turning point from the Cold War to detente, is, as Comrade L. I. Brezhnev stated in his speech to the World Peace Congress, traceable "to the general change in power relationships in the world. A change in favor of those who fight against the 'Cold War' and the armaments race, the adherents of war adventures of every sort, a change in favor of the forces of peace and progress."⁴

The Socialist Commonwealth and Anti-Imperialist Solidarity Are Becoming Stronger

An essential element of the constantly strengthening, many-sided cooperation of the socialist commonwealth consists of the coordinated foreign policy of the fraternal states. Guided by the interest in further strengthening the unity and determination of the socialist commonwealth and heightening the influence of the socialist peace offensive on international life, the cooperation of the member states of the Warsaw Pact must be made even closer. This corresponds to the national interests of every socialist state as well as the collective interests of the commonwealth and indicates the full effect to the strength of all the socialist states in the international arena. Comrade Erich Honecker spoke on this matter at the Eighth SED Congress as follows: "One cannot speak of the cooperation in the socialist commonwealth without emphasizing the significance of the Warsaw Pact for foreign policy and security, especially for the military protection of our commonwealth. In common with the CPSU and the other fraternal parties, the SED has also undertaken strenuous measures to perfect the military organization and the striking power of our defense alliance, to raise combat readiness and mobility to a higher level. To an equal degree, we have contributed to an effective coordination of foreign political activity of the member states of the Warsaw Pact. In the future, too, we will conscientiously fulfill our obligations under the Warsaw Pact."⁵

The cooperation of the countries of the socialist commonwealth has reached a new, higher stage in all sectors. Socialist economic integration is one of the most essential bases for the unity and strength of our commonwealth, of the close association of the socialist countries with the USSR, of the further rapprochement of the fraternal states in all sectors of social life. The GDR party and government therefore see the consistent realization of the comprehensive program of CEMA as the decisive road toward the further successful development of our country.

A new and wide field of active participation in the coordinated foreign policy of the socialist states has opened up with the acceptance of the GDR into the UN. The GDR's attitude in the UN, like that of the other states of the socialist commonwealth, is guided by the principle that the consolidation of peace and international security must have absolute priority in the activity of the world organization. The GDR therefore fully supports

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the comprehensive activities of the USSR in the UN for preserving and assuring world peace. The GDR is of the view that such steps as: reduction of military outlays of the permanent members of the Security Council by 10 percent and the use of part of the funds thus saved to help the developing countries; prohibition of the use or threat of use of force in international relations; prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons for all time; concrete steps in the field of disarmament and arms limitation which could be negotiated and concluded at a world disarmament conference--all these steps correspond to the vital interests of all peoples.

At the same time, our state supports the right of peoples to armed struggle for their liberation from colonial oppression, the right to collective defense. The GDR regards the defense alliance of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact, especially the military strength of the Soviet Army, as an effective instrument to insure peace in the whole world.

The declaration for the consolidation of international security adopted by the UN member states opens up favorable possibilities for stabilizing international peace. Appropriate observance of principles anchored in the declaration on the part of all states can further detente and help eliminate potential conflict spots in the world. That holds true especially for the Near East where Israeli acts of aggression continue to endanger international security.

In common with the fraternal socialist states, the GDR stands for a total solution of the Near East problem, which can consist only of a withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

The GDR proclaims in word and deed its active solidarity with the brave people of Chile and demands the immediate release of all Chilean patriots. Our state supports the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America fighting for independence and social progress against racism and neocolonialism. In his speech before the Sixth Special Session of the UN General Assembly last April, at which the GDR supported the just demands of nationally liberated countries to unlimited use and disposal of their natural resources, the GDR acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Comrade Otto Fischer, confirmed the solidarity of our state position with these countries and peoples when he said: "The GDR--itself for many years the object of imperialist discrimination and attempted blackmail--always contributes to the preservation of the political and economic independence of the developing countries, to the elimination of all colonial and neocolonial oppression, exploitation, and discrimination, and energetically supports the struggle of peoples against apartheid and racial discrimination."⁶ This consistent anti-imperialist policy of our state is the basis for the close bond of the GDR with the states and peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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It is and remains an important task to consolidate the victory of the Vietnamese people and to guarantee the strict observance of the treaty to end the war and restore peace in Vietnam. True to the principles of proletarian internationalism and as a contribution to a stable peace in south east Asia, the GDR continues to give the fraternal Vietnamese people comprehensive assistance to overcome the consequences of war and to continue the building of socialism in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Our state accords solid support also to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, the true representative of all the South Vietnamese people, in the development of the country on the road to peace, independence, democracy and progress.

The GDR supports and promotes the suggestion for the creation of a collective security system in Asia. Realization of such a system could lead to a lasting and stable peace in this area of the world.

For Security and Cooperation In Europe

As a state which was confronted with the problems of class conflict in Europe, the GDR was and is always in favor of peaceful and stable relations, above all, with the capitalist countries of Europe. Now that the GDR maintains diplomatic relations with these states, it is possible to give practical form to the policy of peaceful coexistence between the GDR and the capitalist countries. Immediate results can be aimed for, as in the long-term government agreements with France, Italy, Finland, Austria, and Belgium. In an interview on the results of his official visit in Belgium and Luxemburg at the end of December 1973, the GDR Minister of Foreign Affairs, Comrade Otto Winzer, emphasized: "The GDR is and remains interested in the continuation of detente and will work toward the development of bilateral relations with the states of western Europe and for European security and international cooperation through its activities in Geneva and Vienna."⁷

The GDR is guided by these principles also in its relations with the FRG. Between the two independent and sovereign states, there are no special relations or intra-German relations, but only relations of peaceful coexistence on the basis of international law. "The GDR is not a part of the FRG and the FRG is not a part of the GDR. To recognize this in good time corresponds to the national interest of the GDR and also of the FRG."⁸

The GDR's point of departure is in principle that treaties are to be strictly observed and fully applied. It has therefore seized the initiative in negotiations in all factual areas provided for in the Berlin Treaty. Visible results of this constructive policy are the agreement reached in April on health and the non-commercial payments system between the GDR and the FRG. The organ of the DKP, UNSERE ZEIT writes in this connection: "The agreement

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following the basic treaty with the GDR...proves that it is good for people if detente moves forward, if the normalization of relations with the GDR advances on the basis of international law and the principles of peaceful coexistence."⁹

Favorable possibilities for the process of detente in Europe are offered by the Four Power Agreement on West Berlin. It is true also in this instance that these possibilities can become a complete reality only if this agreement is observed without reservation. Contrary to the usual, fabricated misinterpretations, this agreement firmly stipulates that West Berlin is not a component part of the FRG and must not be governed now or in the future by the FRG.

A great success of socialist peace policy and a visible expression of the political changes taking place in European state relations is the European Security Conference. The GDR utilizes its participation in this significant conference to help realize the program for a peaceful Europe pursued by the socialist countries. The proposals disseminated by the states of the socialist commonwealth concerning all points under discussion also bear the signature of the GDR. The point of departure of the GDR in common with that of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist states is that clear determinations on the principles of relations between states in Europe, especially the principle of the inviolability of borders, are of first priority importance.

In the program for assuring a peaceful future for Europe are also the efforts of the USSR, the GDR, and the other fraternal socialist countries to complement political detente by constructive steps toward the limitation of arms and lowering troop levels.

The Vienna negotiations among other things serves this aim, and the GDR is one of the 11 directly participating states in these negotiations. The GDR, like the other socialist countries represented in Vienna, is guided by the principle that all concrete agreements in this area must correspond to the principle of undiminished security for all participating states, that is, no side shall demand advantages at the expense of the other sides. The draft agreement on lowering troop levels and armaments in central Europe circulated in November 1973 by the Soviet Union, the GDR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia corresponds to this goal.

At the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact on 17-18 April of this year, it was emphasized "that the trend toward detente is currently the decisive element in the development of the situation on the European continent and in the world."¹⁰

At the same time, it must be stated that the opponents of detente, the unregenerate adherents of Cold War, have not laid down their arms. That

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is evident in the constantly growing military budgets of the NATO states and in the efforts of military circles to activate NATO. We are erecting an effective block against revanchist forces hostile to detente by the continual strengthening of the defense readiness of our country, and by the further consolidation of our alliance with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal states for the defense of socialist achievements and peace. The communique of the meeting reads: "So long as the NATO bloc exists and no effective disarmament measures are realized, the Warsaw Pact countries consider it necessary to strengthen their defense capability and develop close cooperation among each other to this end."11

FOOTNOTES

1. "25 Jahre Deutsche Demokratische Republik--ein Vierteljahrhundert Kampf fuer Frieden, Demokratie und Sozialismus. Thesen, Aufruf" (Twenty-five Years of the GDR--A Quarter Century of Struggle for Peace, Democracy, and Socialism. Theses, Proclamation), Berlin 1974, p 29.
2. Honecker, E., Report of the Central Committee to the Eighth SED Party Congress, Berlin 1971, p 6 ff.
3. Cited by Winzer, O.: UN Membership for the GDR Serves Peace and the Peaceful Cooperation Among States. In: DEUTSCHE AUSSENPOLITIK, Vol I, 1974, p 9.
4. Brezhnev, L. I., For a Just, Democratic Peace, For the Security of Peoples and International Cooperation. In: NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (Edition B), 29 October 1973.
5. Report of the Central Committee, op. cit., p 16 ff.
6. Fischer, O.: GDR for the Right of All States to Economic Independence. In: NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (op. cit.), 15 May 1974.
7. Winzer, O., Under the Sign of an Atmosphere of Detente in Europe. In: ibid., 4 December 1973.
8. Honecker, E., "Unsere Kampfkraft staerken und sicher vorwaertsschreiten zum Wohle des ganzen Volkes" (To Strengthen Our Fighting Power and Stride Surely Forward for the Well-Being of the Whole People), Berlin 1973, p 19.
9. Citation from NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (op. cit.), 29 May 1974.

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10. Communique of the Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact. In: NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (op. cit.), 19 May 1974.
11. Ibid.

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COMMENTARY CRITICIZES FRG MILITARY POLICY

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 47-54

[By Lt Col W. Haentzschel and Lt Col F. Greulich]

/Text/ The general crisis of capitalism today is characterized by accommodation pressures. There are three sets of causes which are fundamental in bringing about this process of accommodation:

First, the shift of international power relationships in favor of socialism. This has been caused primarily by the growth of the three principal revolutionary trends of our time: the socialism world system, the international workers movement, and the peoples national liberation movement. Decisive and determining in this process have been the increasing power and rising influence of the Soviet Union and of the entire community of socialist states. Especially because of these, imperialism has been compelled to accept the places, means, and methods of international class confrontations forced upon it.

Second, the effects of the internal contradictions and laws of development under the conditions of state-monopoly capitalism and of the scientific-technical revolution.

Third, all those factors which are a consequence of dialectical reciprocal relationships, especially of the growing conflict of interest among the international monopoly groups and the imperialist states with one another.

These causes are not operative under any circumstances as isolated and separate factors, but constitute in their totality and dynamism the ground on which is conducted the contemporary imperialist policy of accommodation.

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FRG Military Policy in Contradiction With Detente

The causes of the accommodation pressures also influence the military policy of the FRG. Furthermore its effective radius of operations and the forms and methods for accomplishing military goals are being cut back and hemmed in by socialist military policy. Both catastrophic world wars of this century had their origin on our continent, and it is on the western portion of this continent that is to be found the greatest concentration of imperialist armed forces with a high degree of readiness for aggression. If, nevertheless, no war has taken place in Europe for more than a quarter of a century, then the chief reason for this is that the Soviet Army and the armed forces of the other socialist states constitute such a concentration of battle strength, that the strategists of NATO, of the Pentagon and of the FRG War Ministry were never able at any point in time to count upon chances for military success.

It is for this reason that, in this 25th year of the German Democratic Republic, we can be proud of our successful military policy, which, under the leadership of the SED and the administration of our Worker and Peasant State, in complete agreement with the CPSU and the other fraternal parties of the community of socialist states, has been consistently and persistently transformed into a reliable defense of socialism. "We can say, in all justice, that the defense of our socialist homeland is in reliable hands, with the National People's Army and all armed forces of the German Democratic Republic, in close comradeship of arms with the glorious Soviet Army and the armed forces of the other Warsaw Pact states."¹ These words of acknowledgment of the first secretary of the SED Central Committee, Erich Honecker, in the report to the Eighth Party Congress are for us an incentive and obligation.

If in Europe, despite the stubborn resistance of ruling imperialist circles, a complex of treaties came into being, in which the FRG definitively accepted the binding responsibility under international law of renouncing the use of military force in its relations with socialist states, this is only and not least due to our consistent and elastic military policy. Comrade Army General Heinz Hoffmann, member of the Politburo and minister for national defense, pointed out the role of the united armed forces in this affair: "Our armed forces, with the Soviet Army in the van, have at all times provided reliable support for the foreign policy objectives of our allied states. The members of the National People's Army in the ranks of the united armed forces have also fulfilled with all honor their tasks of strengthening the GDR militarily, and their alliance duties vis-a-vis the fraternal states."²

If the imperialists are really ready to negotiate reductions in troops and armaments in Central Europe, then they are doing this not as a consequence

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of a change in the nature of imperialism, but because they have become aware of the loss of their military superiority of the past. The secretary of state of the United States, Kissinger, in his policy speech of 23 April 1973, provided a basis for this insight with the following summary of the failure of the policy of the atomic big stick: "The West no longer possesses the nuclear preponderance, which permitted it in the 1950's and 1960's to rely almost exclusively on massive nuclear retaliation (read: atomic attack against socialism--the author). Because a strategy of that sort, under conditions of nuclear equivalence is a direct invitation to mutual suicide, the alliance (read: NATO--the author) must have other possibilities. For this reason the United States has maintained considerable amounts of armed forces in Europe, and our NATO allies have made important efforts, to modernize their own military establishments."³

Today, however, not just the ruling circles of the United States, but also those of the other imperialist states, including the FRG, have been forced to recognize "that their past thinking, their gambling on military strength as the most important, even in the last analysis almost the sole foreign policy instrumentality, is an untenable position."⁴ More than that: the use of military force along with other means (economic and political, among others), for the purpose of accomplishing foreign policy goals, has become progressively more difficult for imperialism. In this sense, the area for the use of imperialism's military strength as an effective instrumentality for its policies has grown progressively smaller.

With these realities in mind, influential monopoly capitalist forces in the various NATO states, including the FRG also, are compelled to commit themselves to the support of the process of political detente in Europe. This fact does not leave us blind, however! We are still only at the beginning of the liberation of mankind from the scourge of imperialist wars, and what has been achieved to date is by no means irreversible. The policy of peaceful coexistence is only victorious on a permanent basis and only secure and stable to the extent that the fight for it is renewed daily; and the socialist state is only safe to the degree that it is able to protect its accomplishments.

Comrade Admiral Verner also made this fact quite clear in the report of the Secretariat of the Main Political Administration to the Ninth Conference of Delegates of the Party Organizations of the SED in the National People's Army and the border troops of the GDR: "The greater the military might of socialism, the greater the fighting strength and combat readiness of our allied armies, so much the more secure is peace, so much more definitive will detente be."⁵

The reality demonstrated by communist and workers parties, namely that class struggle is increasing in the political, economic and ideological

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spheres, is not only a consequence of the fact that the three principal revolutionary movements of our times are successfully multiplying their efforts to drive back the enemy still further, it also includes by the same token the fact that the enemy's activities are increasing in an effort to win back lost positions and escape from the defensive position imposed by history. In the military sphere it is not only the forces of the monopoly bourgeoisie hostile to detente who insist on obsolete positions of military confrontation. They are continuously increasing their armament potential to an enormous extent, and keeping open military options as a means of deterrence and, in certain situations, of immediate acts of war. In evaluating this situation, the communique for the April session of the Political Advisory Commission of the Warsaw Pact member states says: "The participants in this meeting of the Political Advisory Commission conclude with satisfaction that the trend toward detente is currently the determining factor in the development of the situation on the European continent and in the world...The participants in this meeting of the Political Advisory Commission likewise conclude that the opponents of international detente, the cold-war supporters, the forces of imperialism and reaction have not laid down their arms, and are trying to work against the process of detente which is the answer to the peoples' hopes, and to impede it. Militarist circles are intent upon activating NATO. The military budgets of the countries in this imperialist military block continue to grow still larger."⁶

The ultimate consequence of this in Europe is a contradiction between the forward moving process of political detente and the still fast frozen position of military confrontation.

This also makes it difficult for the peoples finally to make use of the results and fruits of political detente to their full extent, such, for example, as might result from a diminution of military expenditures. Military detente thereby gains in importance not only as a factor in the maintenance of peace, but also to an ever increasing degree as the basis for enduring and purely political, economic and cultural cooperation among European states of differing social structures, and is an objective need for all participating peoples. As a consequence, "military detente, as a supplement to political detente, is, in the concurrent view of the participants in the meeting of the Political Advisory Commission, of very great importance."⁷

This kind of development, however, quite evidently is not in the interest of the extreme right of finance capitalism, which, especially in the principal countries in the NATO sphere, has been closing ranks ever more closely to put a brake on the forward-moving process of European detente, and to strengthen military confrontation. Lenin's judgment is being confirmed over and over again: As long as the historical era of the transition from capitalism to communism "has not been concluded, it is inevitable that the

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exploiters keep on hoping for a restoration, and that this hope transforms itself into attempts at restoration."⁸

Even elements of the monopoly bourgeoisie, which for the greatest variety of reasons are intent upon pursuing a more realistic foreign policy, and promoting international trade, and cultural and scientific exchange, often find themselves locked in a front with the most conservative forces of monopoly capitalism, a fateful anticommunist and anti-Soviet front.

Characteristic of present-day FRG military policy are continuity in the choice of aggressive imperialist goals and so-called modern reforms, to increase the effectiveness and readiness for aggression of the Bundeswehr and of the other military and paramilitary organs of the FRG. Thus Federal Chancellor Schmidt emphasized in the first declaration of his administration, 17 May 1974, in unmistakable terms: "Our friends and neighbors, our alliance and treaty partners through the world ought to know that our foreign and security policy positions remain unchanged...The Atlantic Alliance remains the elemental foundation of our security...We will continue to work in the future also, to strengthen this alliance politically, and also make our contribution in the future with the Bundeswehr. Mutually concordant security policy interests govern the European-American relationship."

Main Substantive Aspect of FRG Military Policy

An essential component of FRG military policy is unconditional commitment to the aggressive NATO Pact and to the West European Union. Strengthening the NATO European group (EUROGROUP) has extraordinary importance for the planned realization of FRG military-political goals. By means of the EUROGROUP it is potentially possible to obtain the power of controlling, or participating in the control of nuclear weapons, to expand and develop its own military presence, and by means of this to make good in ever increasing measure claims to hegemony in Western Europe, so as ultimately to displace the United States from its top imperialist position within the long-term perspective of a developed, independent Western European military and power base.

This military-political guideline is only in seeming contradiction with another, that of proclaimed unconditional loyalty to U.S. imperialism and the presence of U.S. troops in Europe. The ruling circles of the FRG and the leadership of the Bundeswehr continue to rely upon the atomic weapons of the United States. They hope, furthermore, to attain possession, on a division of labor basis, of sufficient tactical-nuclear weapon systems, while the United States is to constitute the strategical weapon shield. At the same time they are striving to develop and expand their position vis-a-vis Western European partners.

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A counterrevolutionary and aggressive anticommunist line of thrust constitutes the third FRG military-political guideline. All military-political concepts, plans, alliances are subordinated to this type of goal.

The leadership of the Bundeswehr is currently very busy, as it has always been, to plan, develop and introduce a whole range of forms, methods and reforms as instrumentalities to make good its responsibilities for military-political accommodation, that is to shape, develop and expand the aggressive readiness of the Bundeswehr as an instrument of imperialist power.

Among some things included are:

The already introduced reform of the army's structure, planned to be continued into 1977-1978. This involves numerous structural changes, by means of which the Bundeswehr shall be more consistently and fittingly prepared to meet the conditions of modern war. It is planned, for example, to raise the number of brigades from 33 to 36, to equip the armored infantryman brigades from now on with 66 combat tanks instead of 54. It is planned, furthermore, to subordinate field units of regimental size assigned to NATO, as well as the national territorial army, to the corps headquarters which have yet to be created, and thereby to centralize the leadership of the ground troops. Part of this development includes the introduction of a 12-month period of availability readiness (instead of 3 months as in the past) for soldiers released from basic military service and a portion of those who have served out an enlistment. These can be called up for duty by the Minister of Defense without issuing a mobilization order. As a result, the leadership of the Bundeswehr is in a position where it can increase the peacetime strength of the Bundeswehr from 495,000 to 622,000 men.

The modernization of existing battle techniques and the introduction of new ones. This includes:

--in the case of the ground forces, the introduction of the Lance operational-tactical rocket system, of the Leopard and M 60 tanks, the Marten armored personnel carrier, and new means for antitank and antiaircraft defense;

--in the case of the air force, the further addition of the airplane models Phantom 4-F, Alpha Jet and Panavia 200;

--in the case of naval forces, the procurement of rocket-armed surface vessels, submarines of the 206 model, and helicopters for hunting submarines.

Reform of the educational and training system for officers and non-commissioned officers. Here the leadership of the Bundeswehr is not only

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concentrating on the intensification of special military training, but is also directing its attention to qualifying its personnel for imperialist leadership of men, to further equip its officers and non-commissioned officers ideologically and methodologically as carriers of imperialist modes of thought and behavior.

The evergrowing size of the FRG armaments budget. On 22 May 1974 the Bundeswehr passed a defense budget of DM 28.87 billion (an increase of 7.9 percent over 1973). In the 1973-1974 White Book, the 1974 armaments budget was still carried at DM 27.6 billion, a rise of 6.7 percent!

To properly evaluate these and other military-political activities, it is necessary to fit these in turn into the framework of the overall policy of the FRG and of NATO. By doing this, the threatening dangerousness, but also the total lack of long-range perspective of the present FRG military policy becomes visible. It is subject to the never ending necessity of making a move. All military-political measures take place on the basis of its historically determined defensive position, to which imperialism is reduced. These measures are of no help whatsoever in resolving imperialist contradictions. To the contrary, they are the cause of the further sharpening of the general crisis of capitalism. Let us take as an example of this, expenditures for armaments. Their increase is a profitable business, now as ever, for the armament monopolies, for the military-industrial complex, because the scientific-technical revolution causes, among other things, an extraordinarily high moral consumption of armaments and weapons systems. "On the other hand, the working of historical law becomes apparent, in accordance with which the costs of each new generation of weapons grows at a truly geometric rate by comparison with the one that preceded. As a consequence of this, the armaments economy is transformed from being just one sector of the capitalist economy, viewed by the ruling class as a useful counterpoise which makes it possible for the state to regulate economic fluctuations, into a gigantic, unproductive part of the overall economy, which disturbs the normal functioning of the economic mechanism."⁹

Finally, when one checks into the situation of the workers in the FRG, it becomes thoroughly understandable that the rise in the armaments budget is totally incompatible with real improvement in the quality of life of the working people.

Limits to the military policy of the FRG and of the other NATO states are set, to be sure, by the building up of three centers of imperialist rivalry (the United States, Western Europe and Japan) and by the conflicts of interest among the NATO partners. The mutually exclusive interests of the individual associations of monopolies are in conflict with a unified anti-communist front policy. It is to be observed, for example, that firms which are pressed to the wall in their struggle for maximum profits, especially by the monopolies of the military-industrial complex, find themselves

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induced increasingly to do business with socialist states, to normalize their relations, and to protect their own particular monopoly interests. They thereby contribute wittingly or unwittingly to detente and constitute within their own camp a growing insecurity factor which is ever more difficult to calculate with respect to an aggressive war policy against the socialist states. Among the individual NATO states there are, along with joint interests, also specific internal and external interests particular to an individual state whose pursuit is often in conflict with the joint military policy. But here it is predominantly a matter of economic or socio-economic frictions. These specific lines of interest reflect both the law of the uneven development of capitalism in the present phase of its general crisis. They increase the instability of the imperialist system and hinder its military plans.

Increased Manipulation of the members of the Bundeswehr

For the monopoly bourgeoisie and their military policy new situations and difficulties are also manifesting themselves in the ideological sphere. For this reason the leadership of the Bundeswehr is striving in increased measure toward deepening the political-ideological and psychological manipulation of the members of the Bundeswehr. The role which is played in this by the imperialist mass media was characterized by V. I. Lenin as early as 1916: "...nothing can be accomplished without the masses. But the masses cannot be led in the age of printed books and parliamentary systems without a wide-branching, systematically employed, solidly equipped system of flattery, lies, knavish tricks, which juggles with stylish slogans..."¹⁰

From this point of view, lies about the threat from the East and the threatening communist danger have once again been found useful in the arsenal of imperialist ideology. Anticommunist propaganda in the style of the Russian-terror stories is of course not out of date. The enemy tries to be more successful, pursuant to the motto: "The delicate exercise of power, the inconspicuous, which does not permit the influenced to perceive that he is really not following his own will, is ever so much more effective, if one knows how to manipulate it."¹¹

As variously as the face of the threatening lie may be masked, when it is looked at more closely, it is always directed against the foundation of the socialist organization of society, against the leading role of the Marxist-Leninist party, against the growing importance of the working class and against the function of our socialist state, including its army. It is significant that the legend of the communist threat and of the Soviet danger is a part of the most reactionary forces of international monopoly capitalism, but also a feature of the Maoists.

This demagogy of threats and menaces, which today serves all our enemies to justify their war hysteria, is not only directed against the community

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of socialist states, but also has as its target internal democratic forces, depicting the internal enemy as a kind of devil.

And so the Bundeswehr and all armed forces of the FRG are "zeroed in against the internal enemy," as it is expressed in the mess-hall jargon of the Bundeswehr. Along with this go all the various activities for the "integration of the Bundeswehr in the social organization," which means the increasing militarization of the schools and of the educational system, the first efforts to transform civilian schools of higher learning in conformity with the Bundeswehr institutes as models, the penetration of the labor unions with former officers and non-commissioned officers of the Bundeswehr and of the border police who are loyal to the system. Also to be included with the foregoing are the preparations for deployment of armed troops against workers fighting for their rights.

Thus it is that the development and expansion of the internal and external functions of the Bundeswehr are likewise components of the imperialist military policy of the FRG and require on our part the highest political-ideological and military alertness vis-a-vis these operations of the enemy.

History has confirmed that the socialist military alliance is a genuine and effective instrument for ensuring peace against all imperialist intentions of aggression. Lenin's prescience thus has become reality: "Only a socialist world army of the revolutionary proletariat is able to put an end to this oppression and enslavement of the masses, to this slaughter of slaves by each other for the sake of the slaveholders' interests."¹²

In view of the undiminished aggressive military policy of the FRG imperialists and of the increased efforts of influential imperialist forces to oppose the process of detente, we have every reason to continue our efforts for the universal strengthening of socialism, including its military might. In that way we will achieve that the positive results already attained in the struggle for security and peace can never be cancelled and reversed, that political detente already under way can be enlarged and supplemented by military detente. We are thereby following the warning already proclaimed by Lenin, that in view of the existence of aggressive imperialism "our steps toward peace must be coupled with the bringing to bear of our entire military strength."¹³ Consequently the members of the NVA will strive daily for high combat readiness, for outstanding military mastership, and thereby further fulfill in all honor the principal military task set by the Eighth SED Congress for the well being of workers of the GDR, and in the interest of the entire community of socialist states, in close class alliance and brotherhood in arms with the Soviet Army and will the other armies joined together under the Warsaw Pact.

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FOOTNOTES

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ATTITUDES, PROBLEMS OF YOUNG NVA SOLDIERS DISCUSSED

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 55-61

[By Lt Col W. Markus and Dagmar Pietsch, both doctors of philosophy]

/Text/ At least twice during the training year--and always at that time when young GDR citizens change their civilian clothes for an army uniform--the question arises for officers, non-commissioned officers, party and FDJ organizations in the NVA, what kind of young men are these who are first coming into our unit, what is their political attitude, what talents and skills are characteristically theirs? The dominant concern of this article is to make a contribution to answering these questions. And in doing this, the intention of the authors is not to draw a comprehensive picture of the new generation in the GDR, but to set forth a few characteristic traits, which have become important at the present time, and thereby to stimulate discussion.

Most young people have already participated very directly and quite deliberately in shaping life in our state. They have cooperated as apprentices or young skilled workers, as pupils or students, quite actively by now in the accomplishment of the principal task set for us by the Eighth SED Congress. This autonomous activity, this being drawn into social life in a responsible way, and especially also the progress which has been achieved in the most recent period of development of our socialist state, have a determining influence upon the personality development of the young citizen, and by this token on the future soldiers, non-commissioned officers, officers of the NVA and of the border troops of the GDR. This development is reflected in the thinking and actions of the young citizens.

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Before the year was out the youth of our republic documented by their preparation and execution of the Tenth World Festival a forthrightly unambiguous attitude, to a certain degree their certificate of political maturity. They demonstrated during the days in Berlin to whom they felt they belonged and whose policy they represented. Even our enemies were not able to overlook this fact. Western mass media were compelled to recognize and attest the self-confidence of the GDR youth, who represented their point of view in an accommodating but aggressive way. And they confirmed that "organized solidarity and political commitment quite evidently could also be the source of much fun." The unity between youth and party of the working class was thus demonstrated for foe and friend, and the bourgeois sociological thesis about the objectively dominant generation gap problem, valid for all social orders, was once again reduced to absurdity.

On the basis of socialist relations of production in the GDR there are developing new relationships between classes, strata, social groups and individuals, which influence the articulation of the new traits of the socialist personality. Both the social changes in our republic as well as further progress in the development of the community of socialist states, and also world political changes are of fundamental importance in the formation of socialist personalities. They also effect recognition of the necessity of protecting the socialist state. It is out of this that understanding is growing for the importance of continuously higher combat readiness for the sake of defending the socialist fatherland, for the increasing peace-maintenance character of the socialist armed forces and for further increasing the internationalist responsibility of the NVA and of the border troops of the GDR for the protection of the socialist community of states, but also recognition of the continuously sharper class struggle between socialism and imperialism. "The young generation has at all times in the history of the GDR made a great contribution to the building of socialism. We place great trust on youth today as we did yesterday. We are proud of them and happy that they are proving themselves capable and worthy of carrying on the work of their fathers and mothers."¹ All this has to be taken into consideration in judging the level of development of the young citizens.

Concerning a Few Personality Traits

The young citizens who put on the uniform of the NVA or of the border troops of the GDR, to perform their duty as laid down by the constitution of the GDR, and also at the same time to fulfill their right to defend the socialist fatherland, come for the most part from the working class led by the Marxist-Leninist party--the class which is all-determining in socialism--the bearers of power. Consequently those traits are characteristic of the young worker in uniform which are characteristic of his class.

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What is most marked in the young citizen of the GDR--and this is proven especially by the attitude of the members of the army in the performance of their military tasks--is: loyalty to socialism, pride in the GDR, and commitment to the policy of the party of the working class, and solid friendship with the Soviet Union.

Along with strengthening fundamental political convictions, the following traits are characteristic of the young army member: a high level of personal culture, striving for comprehensive up-to-date information, personal experience in the work of socialist production, efforts at creative work and social activity in the most different social realms. This has been proven, for example, by the development and upward swing of the innovator movement in our republic. In 1970 every sixth worker, in 1971 every fifth, and in 1972 already as many as every fourth worker submitted an innovator proposal. It is the young workers who are the pace-setters in this.² Even taking into consideration still-existing incompatibilities--especially those based in the development of youthful personalities--the young citizens have at their disposal:

--a widened angle of vision, deeper insight into political and social relationships, and arising from all this positive motivation for carrying out military service;

--increased knowledge, capacities and skills;

--stronger incentives for social activities.

Good preconditions for an ideal fulfillment of the military assignment are afforded by firmly anchored socialist basic convictions, a heightened capacity for production, the new political, intellectual-cultural and material interests which are in process of objective development, and also the recognition of fundamental social values and norms.

Concerning Class Consciousness and State Consciousness

The close ties of the army members with the socialist GDR and their marked pride in being citizens of the first German socialist state are motivated above all by the knowledge that the leadership of the party and the state are doing everything for the universal advancement of youth. Very frequently the youngsters base their pride in our state upon the growth of GDR authority on a world scale, something which they, in the final analysis, trace back to their own work. The view expressed by the members of the army over and over again, that it is worthwhile to live and work for socialism, is a consequence of their attitude toward the republic and of their experience with socialism. The belief of the comrades is growing continuously ever more pronounced that the socialist organization of society guarantees them and their families clear prospects and a happy future.

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This conclusion was confirmed by a study of the development of the consciousness of history among the working class of the GDR. Of those questioned in the course of this study, 80 percent were of the view that they themselves are making a direct contribution of historical importance in the development of the GDR. More than two-thirds regarded their daily labor for socialist production as constituting this contribution.³ This indicates that the majority correctly organize their activity for socialism and are ready to draw from this the correct conclusions concerning their behavior during military service, something which has also been confirmed by the initiatives and results of the competition "Soldier-Assignment 25: like Thaelmann, resolute in battle, and ready for combat at all times." The successes achieved by the GDR during its two and one half decades of existence, are clearly recognized as the result of the intelligent policy of the party of the working class. "The policy of the SED is good for the entire people, and that is why the SED also has my confidence." This is a view frequently expressed by the members of our army.

As a consequence of the close ties of the army members with the party and of the readiness voiced by many to actively support and carry out the policy of the SED, the obligation arises also for the party organizations to involve comrades without party affiliation more strongly in the fulfillment of the decisions of the basic organization which concerns them all. In this way relations will be further strengthened between party members and candidates, and members of the army without party affiliation.

Confidence in the policy of the SED is becoming increasingly a characteristic trait of the socialist soldier personality.

Class consciousness and state consciousness of the members of the army finds most consistent expression in readiness to defend the socialist fatherland. The insight, "Whoever wants to live in socialism securely, and to participate in a socialist world that grows more beautiful and manifold, from five-year period to five-year period, must take upon himself for a certain period of his life the high demands, which are made of soldiers in the NVA,"⁴ is to an ever increasing degree a determining factor in the attitude of the young male citizens of the GDR in the performance of their military service. The knowledge that the aggressive elements of the FRG--notwithstanding changed methods of politics--have not given up their goal of destroying socialism in the GDR and in the world plays an important role in this matter.

Likewise typical of our young generation is their internationalist attitude. The education in proletarian internationalism accomplished by the party and the youth association is mirrored in the clearest possible way, especially in friendship for the Soviet Union and the other socialist states.

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The belief that the Soviet Union is the best friend of the GDR is confirmed over and over again by the youngsters. Friendship with the Soviet Union has been developed into a fundamental attitude of young people. This concentration on the first socialist state of the world by the members of the army and the members of the border troops of the GDR is based especially upon:

--the help which the Soviet Union extended to the German people after fascism was smashed;

--the internationalist attitude and the support of the Soviet Union in the struggle for international recognition of the GDR;

--the consistent policy of the Soviet Union in making peace in Europe more secure;

--the support which the Soviet Union extends to all peoples of the world who are fighting for their freedom;

--the experience they have had in cooperating with the Soviet Union during previous employment in the enterprises and also the comradeship in arms with the Soviet Army in the accomplishment of military tasks.

The young draftees feel a deep sympathy with the peoples of the world fighting for their freedom. They follow with the most intimate interest events in the countries which are fighting for their freedom and national self-determination, and they demonstrate by concrete accomplishments in political and combat training that they have drawn the correct class-determined conclusions from this for the military defense of socialism in the GDR.

In contrast with sharply lined political profile of the draftees just sketched there is often rather scanty experience with class struggle. Consequently the process of coming to a clear position does not always take place without some confusion. Contributory to this--as experience has shown--is that socialist construction is repeatedly represented as a smooth process without any conflicts, and in this way comes to be built up into ideal notions in the minds of young people. The analysis and explanation of socialist construction in all its manifold diversity and interest, but also with all its complicated problematical aspects, which demand the total creative strength of a man, is a task for political work and a broad field of action for supervisors and the organizations of the party and the FDJ.

In much the same fashion, we may not proceed on the assumption that because there is theoretical understanding of the necessity of defending the socialist fatherland, the performance of military service goes on

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totally without problems. The young man who is beginning his service with the NVA is confronted by a great variety of questions, and the superior and party and FDJ organization must help him in answering these. This calls above all for understanding, open-mindedness and empathetic helpfulness. Separation from the family, from previous school or work collectives, the new environment, subordination to the requirements of military discipline, high physical and spiritual demands, and also the desire for the most comprehensive possible satisfaction of life's intellectual-cultural and material needs often raise questions which make it absolutely necessary that the young comrade get help in answering. The young draftees in such cases expect particularly from their superiors patience, tact and recognition of themselves as persons.

The military superior will best be able to fulfill his tasks in the education of those under his command when he himself possesses a high degree of political and military knowledge and ability, gives political speeches regularly, is able to listen to those under his command, and is intent on building up a genuine relationship of trust between himself and the soldier. This relationship of trust is the decisive precondition for the entire job to be done in the military collective. To be able to create this relationship of trust it is necessary that the military superior understands the young comrade, studies his temperament and character traits, so as to employ him in the collective correctly in a manner appropriate to his abilities. To establish contacts and create a climate of opinion in the collective which is indispensable to the solution of difficult military tasks the following are appropriate: first of all, engaging the young draftee in conversation and observing his performance of military duties; but also such measures as "Biographical Evenings," or group rallies under the slogan "We Introduce Ourselves to the Collective."

From the first day of service on, the soldier must sense that the military superior is concerned to provide the things in life necessary for the satisfaction of his intellectual-cultural and material needs. Quite simply it is a matter of seeing to it that the rights and obligations promised the soldier by the regulations and military rulings are made good. There is no room here for so-called pettiness.

Concerning the Training and Education of Young Army Members

The quality and level of training and also the class-determined education in the polytechnical and the expanded secondary schools have risen. Because of these, essential preconditions are created, which it is now up to the army to utilize correctly to assure their immediate effect on the fighting strength and combat readiness of the NVA. It is of great importance for education in the NVA, if as early as 1971, 84.4 percent of the male citizens of the GDR (who constitute draftees essentially) had graduated from polytechnical or expanded secondary schools, and the majority

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of them had also acquired specialist certificates.⁵ The statement that the present generation of the FDJ has attained a level of knowledge and culture such as no young generation has before possessed is also completely true for the NVA in this connection.⁶

From this results higher claims upon the leadership activity of the NVA and further developed intellectual-cultural needs that have to be satisfied.

Experience in socialist production and past involvement in social work stimulate the need for development of initiatives and creativity.

As a direct result of the heightened education of the young citizens there are great opportunities for the NVA and the border troops of the GDR. Higher education leads--of course not by itself, but only first through the clever leadership activity of military superiors--to improved mastery of battle technology.

It certainly does not call for further argument to show that mathematical and natural science knowledge constitute a good preliminary basis, for example, for training as a rocket specialist or in a radar station. From this, still further concrete conclusions may be drawn for NVA training procedures. The young draftee today possesses as a rule a high degree of theoretical knowledge in various natural science areas upon which it is possible to build. What is necessary is to make use of the time which has thereby been gained for the transmittal of special knowledge, a wish which is repeatedly expressed by the young members of the army. What they see here are reserves for more effective combat training.

In addition--and this is very significant--it must be remembered that with few exceptions, young men have already completed premilitary training.

There is, however, still another consequence for military superiors and the organizations of the party and the FDJ. Whoever wants to lead highly educated soldiers successfully, must make an effort to get to know thoroughly on a continuing basis the decisions of the party, the Marxist-Leninist social sciences, and the latest findings of military science. This is an important aspect of the function of the military superior as a model.

Concerning the Degree of Political Organization and Social Activity

The preponderant majority of our young army members have gone through the schools of the pioneer organizations, and in the logical course of events have become members of the FDJ. A variety of experience in social work has given a characteristic image to the young men by the time they arrive in the NVA. They are accustomed to having their suggestions concerning work heard, considered and put into effect. They have been educated to form opinions on all kinds of social phenomena, and also to take critical positions with respect to questions raised for discussion, and without regard to the person involved to demand accountability for the work

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performed. The soldier brings this sort of social activity with him to the NVA, and it is necessary for the military superiors and the social organizations to make use of this in their social work for the planned accomplishment of the principal military task. It is really something to bear in mind that every fourth youngster, prior to entering on army duty, already has worked as an FDJ functionary or a functionary in some other social organization.

The draftee today is self-confident and demanding. His self-confidence is manifested in his readiness to assume social responsibility, in his knowledge about his own education and ability. The majority of the youngsters are not shy about expressing their opinions publicly, and expect from their military superior a substantive answer to every question. This self-confidence can in some instances result in an overestimate of one's own abilities.

Psychological factors of course play a role in this connection. It is significant, for example, as regards the overall attitude of young people, that many of them, a short time before having been called up to military service, entered into professional life and there bore a high degree of personal responsibility. After this experience there began for them a period in which unconditional subordination under social norms takes on greater importance. This transition often results in contradictions between relatively well-developed political knowledge and the concrete behavior demanded. But this is not all that much of a problem as it is represented in many places, if one takes into consideration the causes, which lie in the development of the young people. But, in any event, this calls for a certain psychological-pedagogical adroitness and especially knowledge of people and how to get along with them. Work with young soldiers will be especially successful in those cases where one approaches them with confidence and trust, transfers responsibility to them, creates opportunity for the deployment of initiatives and creativity, and supplies them with the information which is necessary for the fulfillment of their tasks.

Problems in Preparing Young Citizens for NVA Service

The conditions and factors of socialist development in our republic mentioned in the beginning, are reflected in the direct preparation of our youth for military service. On the basis of the tasks set by the party for socialist defense education in our republic, all those charged with social education strive to inculcate such knowledge and skills, especially in our male youngsters, as will equip them to accomplish NVA tasks to a very high degree. Through premilitary training by the GST [Society for Sport and Technology], in which in recent years almost every future member of the army participated, good basic conditions for this accomplishment were already being created.

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Educational work at the polytechnical and expanded secondary schools has been of great importance in the preparation of youngsters for military service. The authors had the opportunity of talking with young draftees about the effectiveness of this defense-political work. Measured by the requirements of NVA service (also taking into consideration certain specialized lines), the socialist school for the transmittal of knowledge, capacities and skills, that is to say, for the preparation of the young citizens for their deployment in social practical activities, were given good marks. In similar fashion, the Marxist-Leninist training, the knowledge of mathematics and natural sciences, and polytechnical skills were all evaluated highly.⁷ It was also clear, to be sure that the young people would like to be more concretely instructed by the schools about the specifics of military service and knowledge about the NVA.

As a result of socialist schooling, premilitary training, and other social institutions, and in many cases also because of parents and friends, youngsters become prepared for service in the NVA, and ideas about military life take shape, which military superiors know about, and which they should take into consideration in their work.

As in many other areas of social life in our republic it is clear that young people are prepared to submit to hard demands, and expect that their superiors will create optimum conditions for the accomplishment of the tasks set. Included in this are military discipline, the organization of military service, the severity and closeness of training to combat conditions and the level of socialist relations between the members of the army, especially between superiors and those placed under their command.

Intellectual-cultural life and material living conditions in a military unit also exercise a direct influence upon the fulfillment of combat tasks. A high level in this area is very important for the regeneration of the mental and physical strength of the army member.

The continuously improved preparation of the young citizens of the GDR for service in the NVA has been confirmed by the evaluation which the leadership of the party has made of the work of the NVA in recent years.

FOOTNOTES

1. E. Honecker, "Es gibt keine Alternative zur Politik der friedlichen Koexistenz," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (A-edition), 4 June 1974.
2. See R. Weidig, "Die Arbeiterklasse im Prozess der Gestaltung der entwickelten sozialistischen Gesellschaft," EINHEIT, Berlin, Vol 4, 1973, p 432.

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3. See R. Doebling, H. Meier, "Zur Aneignung des marxistisch-leninistischen Geschichtsbildes der Arbeiterklasse in der DDR" (Concerning the Acquisition of the Marxist-Leninist View of History by the Working Class of the GDR), in "Contributions to the History of the Workers Movement," Berlin, Vol 2, 1974, p 196.
4. W. Lomberg, "Ideologische Probleme in unserer Zeit" (Ideological Problems in Our Time), Berlin, 1973, p 36.
5. "Statistisches Jahrbuch der DDR 1973" (1973 Statistical Yearbook of the GDR), Berlin, 1973, pp 417, 421.
6. W. Lomberg, loc. cit., p 32.
7. A. Meyer, "Die Herausbildung eines der Arbeiterklasse wuerdigen Nachwuchses," DEUTSCHE ZEITSCHRIFT FUER PHILOSOPHIE, Berlin, Vol 2, 1974, pp 223-228.

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DETAILS PROVIDED ON PREMILITARY TRAINING OF YOUTH

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 62-66

[By Lt Col R. Pitschel, historian]

/Text/ In the performance of their work, the members of the Society for Sports and Technology /GST/ are daily confirming the fact that the GST has secured for itself a solid place in our socialist society and that, under the guidance of the party of the working class, it has developed into a stable socialist defense organization. It is cooperating closely with the Socialist Youth Society and is being effectively supported by the Ministry for National Defense.

The following is stated in the welcoming message of the central committee of the SED on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Society for Sports and Technology: "In the course of these 20 years it has performed significant work in providing patriotic education for the young generation, and it has in an estimable manner carried out its social mission in the service of national defense."¹

The GST has been able to develop so successfully particularly because of the support given it by DOSAAF /Voluntary Society for Cooperation with the Armed Forces/, its brother organization in the Soviet Union. Veterans of the Great Patriotic War and functionaries of DOSAAF and of other fraternal organizations helped us to undertake our first steps, and they are today still helping us to live up to the growing demands of our work. It would not have been possible for the GST to develop with such continuity without this magnanimous support.

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The GST Is the School of the Soldiers of Tomorrow

The party of the working class has assigned to the GST, the school of the soldiers of tomorrow, the honorable task of preparing the young people subject to universal military training for service in the armed forces. This calls first of all for explaining to the young people the military policy of our state and for imparting to them military and military-technical knowledge and skills.

The assiduous efforts of thousands of honorary and employed instructors, training supervisors, and functionaries--including many NVA reservists--contribute to the fulfillment of this responsible social mission. Thus we have, in close collaboration with the FDJ, the general and occupational education organs, and the military recruitment offices of the NVA, succeeded in drawing into premilitary basic and career training an ever increasing yearly percentage of young people in the 16-to-19 year age range.

The majority of them are being prepared for motorized infantry service. Many are preparing themselves for service as military vehicle drivers, as morse code operators and teletypists, naval service specialists and divers, and as paratroopers and airplane pilots.

In the course of their premilitary training, the young people develop and consolidate important basic convictions and attitudes with respect to national defense. These include, above all, a love of their socialist fatherland, close ties with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community of states, a strong feeling of solidarity with the peoples fighting for their freedom, a deep hatred for the imperialist class enemy and his criminal machinations, and a firm determination effectively to protect socialism. The young people are ever more successfully being taught courage and perseverance, discipline and order, as well as collective spirit and comradeship.

The troop commanders of the NVA confirm the fact that the achievements of those soldiers who have actively participated in premilitary training are on a considerably higher level and are helpful to a noteworthy extent in safeguarding combat readiness.

There has been an increase in the GST contribution to the recruitment and preparation of new career service recruits for the NVA. In collaboration with the FDJ, we have been able to influence the career decisions of young people at an early stage. Participating in this to a considerable extent are the military-sports working groups of the Ernst Thaelmann Pioneer Organization, the Hans Beimler competition activities of the FDJ, the sectional military-sports activities of the GST, and the 9th and 10th grade "Military Training" working groups which were formed in 1974.

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During recent years the GST has considered it to be an important task to employ the future noncommissioned officers and officers as group and platoon leaders in premilitary training units and thus to prepare them for their future service as commanders. The experiences derived from such activities have been incorporated in the FDJ central council resolution concerning the "FDJ Collective of Applicants for Military Occupations."

The close cooperation with the FDJ and the state organs has had a particularly positive effect in the course of the 6 years which have elapsed since the 4th GST congress. In such GST basic organizations as those in the Hennigsdorf "Wilhelm Florin" steel and rolling mill, in the Werra potash combine, in the Magdeburg Ernst Thaelmann combine, in the MAB Schkeuditz state enterprise, and in many other enterprises, particularly fine achievements were attained because the FDJ activists worked in a uniform manner and continuously maintained personal contacts with all participants in premilitary training. Supported by the FDJ activists groups in the Hundertschaften [100-men groups], the basic organizations ensured purposeful and continuing military-political training work. It is helping to develop in many young people a fighting spirit as they compete for the coveted "Best in Premilitary Training" title. The teachers and educators of the expanded high schools and occupational schools and particularly also the reservists of the NVA have a considerable share in the successes achieved in the sphere of premilitary training.

"Signal DDR 25" Campaign Constitutes Proof of High Military Readiness Level

This year the FDJ and the GST jointly prepared the "Signal DDR 25" campaign and carried it through with the support of the Ministry for National Defense under the sponsorship of Politburo Member and Minister of National Defense Army General Hoffmann.

The objective of this massive military-political and military-sports campaign, conducted in preparation for the 25th anniversary of the GDR, was to activate the entire range of socialist military training in the interest of safeguarding the peace and of protecting socialism.

Jointly with the NVA, the FDJ leadership and the GST executive boards have done extensive work. Thus, for instance, more than 750,000 boys and girls participated in approximately 32,000 military-political roundtable discussions.

In the course of one day during comradeship-in-arms week in Nordhausen, all leading cadres of the parties and mass organizations, the state apparatus, the schools, enterprises, cooperatives, and armed forces presented themselves in more than 200 military-political discussion sessions to answer the questions asked by the young people of this kreis.

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The discussions held in the course of this campaign, especially those held in the military training enlistee camp, the visits to the duty stations of the NVA and of the Soviet armed forces, and the mass participation in military sports events turned out to be an experience for one hundred thousand young people.

The young people's need for extensive expert military-political and military information was taken into consideration by means of organizing numerous meetings with functionaries of the SED, veteran workers, comrades of the military organs and militant groups of the working class, and with government leaders and FDJ and GST functionaries.

On the occasion of more than 11,000 friendship meetings and other events, young people, members of the NVA and Soviet armed forces personnel got together, exchanged their experiences, and reinforced friendly relations.

A total of 10,385 cross-country races, in which approximately 539,000 FDJ and GST members participated, were carried out.

Climactic events of the "Signal DDR 25" campaign included the following:

--The first centrally conducted experience exchange of the "FDJ Collective of Applicants for Military Occupations;"

--Applicants' visits to NVA officer academies and to the border troops of the GDR;

--The Friendship Trip by train and GST boat of more than 300 applicants to the Soviet Union and to the "International Camp for Military Training Enlistees" in Neubrandenburg.

The "Signal DDR-25" campaign attained greater scope than the corresponding campaign on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the GDR.

The results of this campaign have proved the following: The young people's understanding of military-political problems has grown. Their readiness to contribute to the protection of socialism is manifested in their making greater efforts in connection with their premilitary training and in increased commitments to serve as enlistees, career noncommissioned officers, or officers. An even greater number of NVA reservists are declaring their willingness to be active in the GST as instructors and training supervisors.

The discussions which we carried on in many places are to be a permanent feature of FDJ and GST work, and they are to be conducted regularly, especially during Comradeship-in-Arms Week.

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Achievement of any further successes in the spheres of premilitary training and military sports will depend on the way in which we relate our politico-ideological work to the level of our young people and impart to them military-political knowledge, and on our ability to answer their questions aggressively.

All functionaries of our organization are called upon to explore new possibilities for making the political work in premilitary training even more interesting and alive.

And lastly, we are able to state that the greatest progress in preparing our youth for army service is achieved wherever the FDJ, GST, and NVA units and recruitment and induction centers are working well together and where the GST executive boards can rely on experienced reservists to act as instructors and on the counsel of reservist collectives and veteran workers.

Continue to Strive For Our Youth's Increased Defense Preparedness!

The 5th congress of the Society for Sports and Technology has set the following main task for our organization: "The young people are to be prepared for military service in a manner which causes them to recognize it as being a class mission, to acquire the necessary qualifications for this through suitable premilitary training and military-sports activities, and to prove themselves to be class-conscious, steadfast, and disciplined defenders of socialism."² This is a responsible task.

In line with the requirements and objectives established for premilitary training by the Minister for National Defense, the following is necessary:

--To carry through the basic premilitary training of all young males in the 16-to-19-year age range according to established schedules, continuously, in an interesting manner, and on a high level;

--to consider as focal points in this connection military-political education, gunnery training, and physical training;

--in coordination with the military organs, to include the required number of young people in premilitary training for specialized careers in the NVA and to give them thorough training;

--depending on a particular career involved, to make better use of available time so as to enable us to supply the armed forces with well-trained specialists. In this connection it is becoming increasingly important for the young people to make a timely decision with regard to the particular career to be pursued by them (if possible, by their 16th year). In the current training year we are intent on training more radio operators and

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and teletypists for the NVA and on improving the quality of the training of military vehicle drivers.

It is our wish jointly with the FDJ and the recruitment and induction centers to guide the best of the young people participating in premilitary training towards making the decision to serve as career noncommissioned officers or officers. In this connection we are paying particular attention to supporting the "FDJ Collective of Applicants for Military Occupations."

This requires that the young people gather initial experiences in the sphere of collective leadership. Their employment as group and squad leaders in the training units is therefore indispensable.

We shall, through intensive military sports activity and through tightly organized training and systematic competitive activities, make an even greater contribution to the physical training of our youth, and we shall lend a helping hand in making the boys' and girls' leisure time more interesting. During 1974/75, we particularly intend to help the "Military Training" working groups at the 10-grade high schools.

Thus we will continue to obtain members for the Society for Sports and Technology and to set up basic organizations and sections, particularly in the enterprises and in the agricultural area.

In order to solve the above-mentioned tasks, we are concentrating on acquiring, particularly from the ranks of experienced reservists, instructors and training supervisors for premilitary training and for military sports, and on preparing them for their tasks. This calls for individual efforts, but it also requires the help of particularly the commanders and political workers in the NVA.

The GST has set for itself great tasks in observance of the 25th anniversary of the GDR, the 20th anniversary of the Warsaw Pact, and the 30th anniversary of our liberation from Hitlerite fascism. It is above all necessary to deepen patriotic and internationalist education and increasingly to orientate the training toward the concerns of the NVA. Fulfillment of these tasks is guaranteed by competent functionaries and instructors of the GST and by the high level of the GST members' readiness to serve.

The GST is making its contribution to the all-round strengthening of our republic with good results achieved in the spheres of premilitary training and military sports. It thereby also affirms its gratitude vis-a-vis the working class and its militant Marxist-Leninist party. "Everything that we have thus far accomplished and will accomplish in the future is founded in the leadership provided by the Marxist-Leninist workers' party and the

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Socialist Unity Party of Germany. Every day we experience the party's help and receive its counsel and support."³

FOOTNOTES

1. Salutory address of the central committee of the SED on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the GST. In: KONKRET (Berlin), Special 1972 Issue, page 3.
2. Resolution of the 5th congress of the GST. Ibidem, page 128.
3. G. Teller, Central executive board report to the 5th congress of the GST. Ibidem, p 12.

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GROUND, NAVAL, AIR COMMANDERS COMMENT ON GDR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 98A-104A, 98B-102B,
and 98C-102C

[By Lt Gen H. Stechbarth, Deputy Minister and Commander of the Ground Forces, Lt Gen W. Reinhold, Deputy Minister and Commander of the Air Force/Air Defense Command, and Vice Admiral W. Ehm, Deputy Minister and Commander of the People's Navy]

Comment by Ground Forces Commander

/Excerpt/ The troop formations, contingents, and units of the ground forces are today facing new and more complicated tasks. Although at the present time the trend towards detente is the determining element in the development of the situation on the European continent and in the entire world--which assessment was made by the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact states at its meeting in April 1974--the enemies of international detente, the cold war adherents, and the forces of imperialism and reaction have not laid down their arms. They are trying to thwart detente, which corresponds to the hopes of the people, and to check this process.

The militaristic circles are intent on activating NATO. The military budgets of the countries of this imperialistic military bloc are increasing continuously. (See "Communique of the Session of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact States," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 19 April 1974)

From these facts it follows that we must not even for one moment let up in our efforts to increase and to reinforce our combat readiness and unceasingly to carry on the struggle for the further development of the socialist awareness of our armed forces personnel, for a deepening of

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our cooperation and comradeship in arms with the Soviet armed forces and the other fraternal armies, and for our mastery of military and military-technical skills.

In order to live up to the higher demands, new documents for combat training have, after a one-year test period, been introduced in the ground forces on orders of the Minister for National Defense, effective as of the beginning of the 1973/74 training year.

They take into consideration the new quality of integration in the military sphere, and especially our close cooperation with the Soviet Army and the experiences gathered by our Soviet brothers-in-arms, in effectively shaping the combat training process. In them, expression is given to new knowledge gained recently with respect to further developments in the military sphere and with respect to modern combat tactics, as well as to the conditions objectively resulting from the revolution in the military sphere.

Our cooperation with the Soviet Army is of particularly decisive importance for us. In all efforts undertaken by us, we proceed from the fact that they are subordinated to the objective of reliable fulfillment of our military tasks within the coalition. In so doing, we apply to our actions and our performance the strict standards of the Soviet Army, which the latter has tested in decades of struggle for a reliable defense of socialism, and which it has refined through application of up-to-date knowledge in the sphere of military science. Only under these conditions is it possible to ensure smooth operational-tactical cooperation between our commanders, staffs, and troops and those of the Soviet Army.

The new combat training programs and documents serve the objective of resolutely continuing along the proven path of increasingly close cooperation with the troops of the Soviet Army stationed in our country. They are based on the Soviet service regulations and training documents and make it possible for us to take over with all possible dispatch and at first hand the invaluable experiences of the Soviet Army gathered in the sphere of effectively shaping combat training. With such training, based on the experiences and knowledge of the Soviet Army, a further contribution is at the same time made to the deepening of integration in the military sphere and to the reinforcement of the comradeship in arms between the National People's Army and the Soviet Army. The new and higher qualitative level of combat training of the ground forces also takes into consideration the fact that today the troop formations and units are to a far-reaching extent equipped with modern Soviet combat materiel. Continued further equipment of the ground forces with such combat materiel requires that combat training be organized and carried through in the same manner as is done in the case of the ground forces of the Soviet Army.

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There exists today in the ground forces an entirely new generation of military technology. It can no longer be compared with that which existed at the time the first formations and troop units were set up which, to be sure, consisted also at that time of tried and proven Soviet combat equipment corresponding to the level of technological development in those years.

This new generation of technical combat materiel is distinguished by its considerably more advanced combat properties, more favorable technical parameters, and wider applicability.

It is today included in the armament of all service branches, special forces, and ground force services.

The improvement in the combat properties of modern technical combat materiel is accompanied by higher demands made on the commanders in connection with their employment of it and on the crews and service personnel using it. It is necessary in this respect as well to make use of the rich experience and knowledge of our Soviet friends. We have created the necessary framework for accomplishing this by way of the innovations in our combat training.

Bound up with the changes occurring in the area of technical combat equipment was also knowledge gained with respect to the tactics and methods pertaining to the conduct of combat operations. In the area of combat training, one must today also take into consideration the fact that troop operations are distinguished by greater speed, mobility, and rapid succession of events, that the areas in which combat operations take place are becoming larger, and that it is possible for extremely complicated situations to arise.

Greater demands are also being made on cooperation between the individual service branches. In an attack, for instance, the commander of a motorized infantry company must today lead not only his motorized infantry personnel, but also forces and means which have been placed under his command or which are providing support for him, and all of whom are equipped with modern technical materiel, and he must organize cooperation with special-purpose troops and services. This, of course, requires that certain conclusions be drawn already in the training phase.

All of the developmental trends mentioned here determine to a considerable extent the further development of the combat training of the ground troops. It comprises an entire complex of measures which are directed particularly at promoting the sense of responsibility and initiative of all army personnel, at increasing the scope of the training of troop units in conjunction with the use of the materiel intended to strengthen them, at paying greater attention in the course of training to the complex character

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of combat operations, and at orientating tactical and gunnery training as well as other training activities even more effectively towards the requirements of modern combat. At the same time, an even more rational preparation of instructors for the services they are to perform is to be achieved through issuance of methodological guidance materials and service instructions, and the responsibility of the staffs in the sphere of combat training is to be increased through extensive centralization of the training basis.

Work with the ground troops will in the coming years be influenced decisively by successful efforts to attain a higher level of combat training. The measures to be carried out in connection with the new programs and training documents can not be realized from one day to another, but only through a long-range process which extends into the future and the prerequisites for which are extensive, high-quality politico-ideological work and all-round military and military-technical qualifications on the part of all commanders and instructors, as well as a multitude of technical-organizational solutions.

The following statement can be made already today: The excellent and fine results achieved in the examinations at the end of the first half of the 1976/74 training year have shown that the military personnel of the ground forces have understood the concerns reflected in the new combat training documents and that they are making all possible efforts to vitalize them.

The Members of the NVA Are Honoring the 25th Anniversary of the GDR
Through Achievement of Good Training Results

It is now particularly necessary to see to it that in our politico-ideological work each military task, including the organization and guidance of the education and training process in the military fighting collectives be understood as a political task. Combat training is one of the supporting pillars for a high level of combat readiness and it is thus decisively important for the fulfillment of our main military task.

Its perfection and development is not only, or primarily, a technological-organizational problem, but it depends to a decisive extent on the conviction of the people, on the level of their socialist awareness, and on their class-characterized military motivation. Solid socialist basic convictions are important prerequisites for higher achievements and good results.

It becomes apparent from this that even a higher level of troop training carried out in accordance with the new documents can become consistently effective only when each and every member of our army recognizes its full significance and importance, and is ready to make his personal contribution to its success.

Only on this basis can any lingering reservations be reduced and can occasionally still existing imperfections be eliminated. The readiness of the party members to strive for a high level of combat training results has found expression in the discussions and in the resolution of the Delegates' Conference of the SED organizations of the ground troops, and has produced concrete results in the form of the far-reaching commitment movement subscribed to by all military personnel of the ground forces on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the GDR. The results of this training year are proof that the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officer candidates, officers, and generals of the ground forces are converting their intentions into actions and are also in the 25th year of the existence of our republic fulfilling the tasks set for them by the Minister for National Defense with a high degree of quality.

Comment by Air Force Commander

/Excerpt/ In a few days we shall be celebrating the 25th anniversary of our republic.

A development of truly historic proportions began on that 7th day of October, a quarter of a century ago.

For the first time in German history, there came into being in our part of Germany, and under the leadership of the working class and its revolutionary party, a state which stands up with all its might for peace, democracy, and socialism.

We shall never forget the fact that our German Democratic Republic has resulted from the victory of the glorious Soviet Army over fascist Germany and that the development of our socialist state during all these years has had, and still has, its firm foundation in its solid friendship with the Soviet Union and in the personal amicable contacts with our Soviet comrades. Our friendship with the Soviet Union will therefore always be something sacred for us. It has been, and still is, a vital part of our life.

The following is today general knowledge: The positions of the German Democratic Republic are so firm and so strong because we are inseparably allied with the fraternal Soviet Union and are indissolubly joined together with the community of socialist states. All the successes which we have been able to achieve in the GDR during the past 25 years are due to this fact. On it are also based the successes of the National People's Army within the fraternal community in arms of the allied socialist military forces.

The indestructible military alliance which unites our National People's Army, and thus also the members of our air force and air defense command,

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with the Soviet Army and the other fraternal armed forces constitutes an alliance of class comrades. It is a fraternal alliance of socialist soldiers who can rely on one another completely, and who are ready at any time to stake their whole being, all their abilities, and even their lives for the protection of socialism.

At no other time as precisely in the year of preparation for the 25th anniversary of the GDR has it become so convincingly and clearly noticeable with how much initiative the military personnel and civilian employees of the air force and of the air defense command are living up to their responsibilities and obligations. Spurred on by their high estimation of the Order of Karl Marx, a mass initiative hitherto unknown in socialist competition unfolded in all troop formations, units, installations, and staffs on the basis of the decisions of the 9th Delegates' Conference of the SED organizations in the National People's Army.

In the current training year it is particularly our FDJ organizations which, in a truly Ernst Thaelmann-like spirit, are striving for greater political knowledge and ideological clarity and for military competence and conscious military discipline. Thousands of FDJ members are earning the "Excellent Knowledge" badge and hold top rankings in connection with the classification tests for all categories. The most active ones among them are proudly wearing their "Best Performance" badges, the marksmanship badge, or the military sports badge. Numerous FDJ collectives are also relentlessly combating mediocrity and carelessness on the part of individual members of the armed forces and are to an increasing extent taking issue with transgressions against military discipline and order. A very valuable contribution toward increasing combat readiness is being made by many FDJ organizations, especially by those of the air defense rocket troops and of the radiotechnical troops, by means of their military-technical seminars conducted for the purpose of enabling personnel to earn their classifications. Several FDJ members assume sponsorships of newly called up friends. They thereby not only reinforce the military compactness of the units and crews, but they also develop comradely relationships between the participants in the various six-month service tours.

In this impressive account of our socialist competition results on the occasion of the 25th year of the existence of our republic one must also include the initiative and creative work of all members of our radio-technical forces, of the rear services and installations, of our communications and air traffic control personnel, our operational headquarters and staffs, as well as of all other special-purpose detachments and units.

Proof of this is provided by, among others, the exemplary task fulfillment of Senior Lt Schmidt's militant collective in the "Paul Schaefer" formation.

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It was the first to vie successfully for the "Highly Reliable Duty Station" title. On the occasion of several inspections, this collective was repeatedly given a rating of "One." Lively political work, strict service organization, exemplary execution of service tasks, excellent servicing and maintenance of technical equipment, and a high level of discipline on the part of all comrades are characteristic of this outstanding collective. Just as in the case of hundreds of other units, crews, and detachments, such a high evaluation also applies to Lahr Company of the "Walter Stoecker" formation. The members of this company were able to obtain already in the first half-year period of the training year 75 per cent of the classifications scheduled for the entire year. Six detachments received the "Best Performance" title, and it was possible to give "Highly Reliable Duty Station" or "Outstanding-Quality Motor Vehicle" ratings to six duty stations and seven motor vehicles.

Just as in the case of the above-cited troop formations and units, so are thousands of military personnel and civilian employees devotedly and with initiative and creative energy fulfilling their frequently complicated military duties to their socialist homeland in the air defense rocket detachments, at the radar stations, at the air fields, in the camps and shops, in the companies, command posts, staffs, and training installations. The significance of this work performed daily with dedication finds particular expression in the fact that:

--the ready alert system /Diensthabende System/ is functioning in a stable and dependable manner;

--it is possible to note visible progress in combat training in all our armed branches and services; and

--the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers have increased their specialized technical, operational-technical, and general military knowledge and are achieving outstanding accomplishments in their efforts to acquire perfect mastery of their technical equipment.

This exemplary fulfillment of military duties by the military personnel and civilian employees of the air force and air defense command constitutes a convincing and clear avowal of our socialist workers and peasants state and of the Marxist-Leninist policy of our Socialist Unity Party of Germany. It is a vivid expression of their patriotic pride in being citizens of the German Democratic Republic and in being solidly united with the Soviet Union and the other socialist states.

The great achievements and results achieved in connection with the fulfillment of the military main task are not in the last instance the result of a profound understanding of the historical mission of socialist military forces and of the realization that the military superiority of socialism

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is an important condition for making the policy of peaceful coexistence prevail against the opposition of the aggressive and reactionary imperialist forces in the world. For the following is today clearly evident for all to see: The stronger the forces of the Warsaw Pact, that much greater is our peoples' readiness and capability to protect the peaceful development of socialism with military means, and that much more favorable are the prerequisites for making it impossible to reverse the results achieved in the sphere of detente. Our military superiority over the imperialist forces has always served peace, and will always serve peace. There are, on the other hand, numerous examples of the fact that the imperialists are unscrupulously using military force wherever they consider themselves to be superior.

For this reason we shall also in future continue to keep very close track of the military efforts of the imperialist adversary. Thus, for instance, one of the facts meriting our attention is the attempt of top-ranking NATO military leaders to increase the readiness for ideological aggression of the imperialist armies and, not in the last instance, of the Bundeswehr through the use of agitating anticommunist and anti-Soviet myths of a "threat from the east." This corresponds to the military-political course of NATO, which is clearly and unmistakably directed not only at preserving but at expanding further its military might even during the phase of detente.

Disregarding the fact that the agreements and pacts which have been concluded are intended to lessen the danger of a worldwide nuclear war, the NATO leadership as well as the FRG government continues to be oriented towards a flexible strategy of aggression which provides for the use of both conventional weapons and nuclear weapons up to the level of a general use of atomic weapons. We are taking note of the steady increase in armament expenditures, the continuing escalation of the combat capabilities of all arms branches through systematic modernization and new equipment, as well as of the all-round intensification of the training of the NATO armed forces, and we are drawing the necessary conclusions therefrom. The task of ensuring a continuously high level of combat readiness is and will therefore be our most important class mission until the threat against socialism emanating from imperialism has been removed once and for all. In this connection there continues to be valid the requirement to be better prepared for a possible imperialist-caused war than the aggressor, so that the peace-ensuring mission of our socialist forces is secured at all times. This means that each member of our armed forces must prepare himself thoroughly for the armed struggle, and that he must always be alert, disciplined, and ready to serve at any time.

Under the proved guidance of the party of the working class, the military personnel of the air force and of our air defense command will also in future live up to these great demands in an honorable manner.

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Comment by Naval Forces Commander

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the significant anniversary of our socialist republic we are looking back with joy and satisfaction upon a quarter of a century of successful development, and we are at the same time with justified pride also taking note of the achievements of the military policy of our socialist state.

Through its military policy, our militant Marxist-Leninist party, the leading force in the socialist society, has once more confirmed the correctness of the words of V. I. Lenin, when he said that if the ruling class, the proletariat, truly wants to and is indeed going to rule, it must provide proof of such an intention by way of its military organization.

With the creation and development of the NVA the working class of the GDR, guided by its party, has provided convincing proof of its ability to exercise power also in the military sphere. The ground, air, and naval forces of our republic were created step by step within a historically brief time period of barely two decades, thorough consideration having been given to the possibilities afforded by our people's economy, and were developed to become the nucleus of our socialist state. The successful development of the NVA is also evident in the case of the People's Navy, which is part of it.

A High Level of Combat Readiness Is and Will Continue to Be Our Most Important Class Mission

The struggle for a steady increase in combat readiness has occupied the center of attention at all report meetings and delegate conferences of the People's Navy. This fact reflects the steadily growing responsibility of all our party organizations with respect to the combat readiness of our military formations, units, and installations. The efforts made by People's Navy personnel to solve the tasks which have been assigned to them and the results of such efforts were accorded appreciation and recognition in the form of the bestowal to the People's Navy of the Karl Marx Order, which the Minister for National Defense, Army General Hoffmann carried out personally, and for which we are most profoundly grateful to our party and state leaderships.

Decisive factors ensuring for us a high level of combat readiness are and continue to be the political maturity of all members of the People's Navy, the state of their morale, and their will to fight and win. In order to reinforce and to develop these factors further, we have aimed our endeavors in the direction of shaping the efforts of each individual and the politico-ideological work of all chiefs, commanders, political organs, and party organizations in an increasingly troop-related manner. Prerequisites for

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this are considered by us to be the need to know and to analyze the status of morale and of prevalent views, and the setting of goals calling for the development and reinforcement of deeply rooted socialist motives for rendering military service.

Effective educational work continues to be based on the effects caused by the personal examples set by all supervisory personnel, party members, and members of the FDJ, both as regards their personal behavior and conduct and in their implementation of all regulations and orders in the pursuit of their day-to-day duties.

We consider the carrying out of inspections to check on the status of combat readiness to be a decisive means to be used for measuring the quality of the fighting strength of the formations and units of the People's Navy. In this we are guided by the fact that inspections to determine the level of combat readiness can meet their objective only if, in accordance with the requirements set by the Minister for National Defense, they are carried out without prior notice, in a complex manner, and in combat-like conditions brought about by the creation of complicated situations. In our opinion, this is best achieved if we look for new ways, if we rid ourselves of any and all routine patterns, if both those carrying out the inspections and those being subjected to inspections divest themselves of any "inspection mentality" and strive to arrive at an honest, i.e. critical assessment of the existing status of training. The elements of combat readiness which are necessary for victory in war can be truly comprehended if there are no taboos and no so-called hot irons, and if curtailments are held to an absolutely necessary minimum.

In connection with our efforts to increase our combat readiness, in addition to continual training with regard to individual elements, we are also striving particularly to accomplish a systematic lowering of time norms. We proceed from the fact that each sailor, noncommissioned officer, officer candidate, and officer must know which combat readiness elements are particularly important in his own area and which time norms occupy a key position. We are thereby seeking to achieve, in connection with the socialist competition campaign, assumption of even more concrete commitments to lower time norms and to bring it about that the mass initiative of our comrades in the best-performance movement and in the innovation and rationalization movements is concentrated on achieving an increase in our combat readiness.

The objective of combat training is to enable our sailors, petty officers, and officers successfully to do battle with any enemy in any situations and under any conditions. Our commandants and commanders are becoming ever more capable of shaping naval combat exercises and tasks in a complex manner and, above all, under combat-like conditions. Consistently new and unusual situations which correspond to the dynamics and severity of modern combat,

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as well as carefully considered risks in connection with training on the high seas contribute to the development of military qualities and to teaching our comrades those character attributes which are necessary for defeating a strong and well-trained enemy in battle.

The increased efforts which were undertaken in observance of the 25th anniversary of our republic in order to achieve optimum fulfillment of the assigned political and military tasks, and which will no doubt continue to be undertaken, attest to the high level of readiness and determination on the part of the members of the People's Navy to make their military contribution to the realization of the resolutions of the Eighth SED Congress in a Thaelmann-like spirit.

This was particularly well reflected by the result of an important control measure implemented in our navy by the Ministry for National Defense in the early summer of 1974. In connection with it, the efforts of the military collectives of our service to achieve a consistently high level of combat readiness resulted in noteworthy successes.

The operational and combat readiness of the People's Navy was given a high rating and it was possible to decorate many collectives and comrades for their performances. These results are indicative of the fact that there is a steady increase in the number of those commanders in the People's Navy who have come to understand that the task of safeguarding a continually high level of combat readiness is, and will continue to be, our most important party mission.

However, on the occasion of the significant anniversary of the GDR we do not consider these and other positive results to be merely taking stock of what has been achieved, and much less do we indulge in smug contemplation of our successes. Rather, we combine with our stock taking on the occasion of the birthday of our republic a precise defining of our tasks for the last phase of the current training year and of the increased tasks to be carried out in the next training year. The experiences gathered by the Soviet Army and Navy in their almost 57-year history have taught us that dependable protection of socialism is not anything with permanently fixed proportions. Rather, it must be reinforced continuously through untiring educational efforts and personnel training.

It was a source of gratification for the political consultative committee of the Warsaw Pact states to be able to state at its April session that the trend towards detente is presently the main element in the development of the situation on the European continent and in the entire world. At the same time, however, it felt constrained to call attention to the dangerous counter activities of anti-detente forces and especially to the stepped-up military preparations of NATO.

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This assessment, made at the highest leadership level of the Warsaw Pact which will next year be able to look back upon 20 years of its existence, has been confirmed many times over by the attitude of the naval forces of the imperialist military pact towards our People's Navy and the socialist Baltic fleets. Imperialism and its military forces have not changed their plans and objectives and the danger of serious provocations and of a surprise attack has not been overcome.

In this connection, our all-round efforts must also in future be oriented towards our always being better prepared for all types of possible warfare than the potential aggressors. The criterion for these preparations is maintenance of a level of combat readiness which will afford us as much assurance as possible that any surprise action by the enemy will be precluded.

Through active political and educational efforts on the part of the communists in their militant collectives it must be accomplished that all members of the People's Navy will always proceed from the following realization and position: The level of the combat readiness of our navy depends on the personal readiness to serve of each individual sailor, noncommissioned officer, and officer. Only through conscious involvement, effective action, steadfastness, and self-conquest will the objective be reached.

There is no flagging in our all-round efforts to increase our fighting strength and combat readiness. We are resolved to fight, to be vigilant like our unforgettable Ernst Thaelmann, and, each one at his post, we are doing our best for the fulfillment of the tasks set before us now and in the future.

Our contribution to be made on the occasion of the GDR anniversary for a successful conclusion of the training year can only be the following:

--As members of the People's Navy to contribute with our whole being to a further increase of the politico-moral and military superiority of the Warsaw Pact states in the Baltic area;

--universally to carry through the leading role of the party and to intensify the ideological work with all People's Navy personnel;

--to carry out with good and excellent results the training programs as well as the tasks pertaining to combat service and to securing the maritime borders of the GDR;

--to strive for attainment of a situation in which no curtailments of any kind in the spheres of combat service and combat training are permitted,

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in which the sailors, noncommissioned officers, and officers continually strive to perfect their military competence, following the example of the Soviet Navy, in which they consider their accomplishments to be a basis for still greater achievements, and in which they will always gauge all their actions by the criteria of modern combat.

We are reliably protecting that which the working class and the workers of the people of the GDR, under the leadership of the SED, have created in close alliance with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist states in a quarter century of intense struggle for the victory of socialism and for the preservation of peace; for we love socialism, we love our German Democratic Republic.

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COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FLIGHT SAFETY OUTLINED

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 109B-112B

[By Col S. Mittelbach, military scientist, and Lt Col H. Langhammer, engineer]

/Text/ Daily flight-accident-free combat training of flying personnel is necessary for constant high combat readiness of the air force and air defense command. For this reason, commanders bear a special responsibility that all duties in connection with preparation and support of flights are carried out conscientiously and without diminution. A high degree of flight safety contributes substantially to the fulfillment of the flight mission under directed conditions, and to preserve the life and health of the pilot.

In the following discussion, we therefore set forth several essential tasks for the commander and his staff in the struggle for a high degree of flight safety. To supplement this important and complex problem we intend soon to pass on additional practical knowledge.

At the beginning of the 1973/74 training year, new regulations were put into effect in the air force and air defense command for the organization and conduct of flight operations, for flight direction, for the tasks of the military flight support service, as well as for the support of flying. Concurrently, greater demands arise as the result on the leadership function of commanders at all levels, as well as new tasks for support personnel, to increase flight safety and to prevent accidents, along with other incidents, to the greatest extent possible in the combat training of flying personnel.

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The Responsibility of the Commander

The commander, as military leader, political educator and class comrade, bears the principle responsibility in the struggle for a high degree of flight safety. Numerous specialists are subordinate to him, who render an important contribution to flight safety within their areas of specialty in that they directly "produce" flight safety. Therefore the commander must constantly exert political-ideological, military and professional influence on his subordinates, and train them so that they fulfill their duties under all conditions, conscious of their responsibilities, and with creative initiative.

It depends on the leadership activity of the commander and his staff, as to how and with what effort the tasks imposed for the guarantee of a high degree of flight safety are resolved, hence leading to flight accident-free combat training for flying personnel.

Many commanders of aviation troop formations and units as well as of aviation technical battalions insure a high degree of flight safety through their outstanding effort. They have recognized that it suffices in no way, to merely direct attention to certain areas, but that flight safety must be taken into account totally in the leadership process.

Constant work with people is the central point of leadership activity. Let us remind you that it is specifically in the leadership process that to a large extent the personality characteristics of the commander take effect, to which first of all belong a firm class standpoint, a high degree of military ability and exemplary discipline. The commander who follows the principle that personal example is an effective educational method, sets the example. In his leadership activity, the main thing is that he always:

--is effective as a political educator because of pronounced character attributes;

--applies his acquired knowledge, abilities and skills as well as his rich store of experience;

--motivates and inspires his subordinates with his healthy optimism.

It is an essential principle that the commander trains the leader and battle collectives subordinate to him to act in common. In the socialist competition "Soldiers' task XXV: like Thaelmann, resolute for the struggle--always combat-ready," great efforts have been undertaken since the start of the 1973/74 training year in flying formations and units to fulfill all tasks on the basis of a high degree of flight safety.

In this connection, the fighter formation of Comrade Colonel Spitzenberg must be singled out especially. This commander, a performance class I pilot, has mobilized his subordinates for high achievement, beginning with his comprehensive concept for raising the effectiveness of combat training of flying personnel with clear orientation on the key tasks. The combat training of this formation is characterized by the conscientious fulfillment of duties by each individual.

Colonel Spitzenberg, as one of many commanders, makes a substantial contribution to the fulfillment of tasks imposed in combat training of flying personnel with well thought out, exact issuance of orders with strict insurance of their execution. He endeavors to maintain his flight qualification by means of a high level of personal participation as military leader. He gains time for constant perfection and expansion of his flying knowledge, for the study of theoretical military problems, and also for participation in service athletics, through precise organization. It can be generalized that the more comprehensive and profound the commander's overview of the tasks to be fulfilled, the more goal-oriented will be his leadership and the fewer deficiencies there will be in his organization of official duties.

In order to constantly improve flight safety and to prevent flight incidents to the greatest extent possible, it is necessary to:

- impose principles of responsibility and constantly develop responsibility consciousness among army members;
- not underestimate the degree of difficulty of tasks;
- achieve high quality in flying combat training;
- lead a decisive struggle against manifestations of superficiality and routine;
- carry out orders thoroughly;
- conscientiously carry out control functions.

These criteria make clear that in spite of constant development and perfection of our weapons systems, in the last analysis, man is decisive for flight safety. This fact must be heeded constantly in the course of combat training for flying personnel.

Regular collective consultation with responsible staff officers contributes to working out optimal variations on the theme of advancing flight safety. This is important above all for conscientiously assessing knowledge gained during daily flying combat training. It is necessary to bring all officers

of the staff directly into the daily struggle for a high degree of flight safety and accident-free combat training. Every one of these officers, in the performance of his duties, has on the one hand a direct relationship to flight safety, and on the other hand, constant contact with the "producers" of flight safety. The responsibility of officers of the staff in regard to strengthening and advancing flight safety, consists especially of establishing rules for regulation preparation and conduct of flying combat training, as well as uncovering and immediately eliminating violations, mistakes, and deficiencies. They must inquire about them further in official conferences, and when assessing these shortcomings, additional measures must be recommended to the commander for flight-accident-free combat training.

The Influence of the Party Organization and the FDJ

The political organs, the party organizations and the socialist youth organizations contribute decisively to educating members of the air force and air defense command to a high degree of responsibility consciousness. In the struggle for a high degree of flight safety, they furnish constant impetus, and contribute to an analysis of deficiencies still remaining in the planning, preparation, conduct and support of flying personnel in order to eliminate deficiencies through the power of the party and the FDJ organization.

The new standards which evolve from the principle mission of the NVA /National Peoples' Army/, according to the Eighth Party Congress of the SED, are also the main substance of political-ideological work in the air force. The most important thing is that these standards are the guiding principle of thought and action, as well as of evaluation. Establishment of a high degree of flight safety requires:

- strict observation in every case of the rules of flight safety;
- permitting no shortcomings in the preparation, conduct and assessment of the combat training of flying personnel;
- bringing problems of the combat training of flying personnel to the attention of all levels of command;
- making deficiencies still present in regard to flight safety objects of ideological discussion in party organizations and the socialist youth organizations;
- enabling pilots, aircraft mechanics, mechanics and specialists to comprehend and understand the political aspects of military tasks.

Establish all Rules and Regulations Thoroughly

Constant insurance of a high degree of flight safety makes, necessary as already mentioned, comprehensive establishment of specific measures. The principal method is the mobilization of all available strengths and reserves for the comprehensive fulfillment of tasks in the preparation and conduct of flying combat training on the basis of military decisions. Unrelenting improvement of the combat fighting strength and combat readiness of the air force demands that the commander lead the struggle for a high degree of flight safety purposefully, systematically and consequently, with support from the political organs, the party organizations and the FDJ. The principle in effect in our army of the unity of the political and military leadership guarantees, fundamentally, a high level of flight safety. Moreover, inherent in our weapons systems is a high degree of operational safety as well as recognized good flight characteristics which in their entirety contribute to a high degree of flight safety. Based on this, flight safety which takes many forms, must be further strengthened. In this, the leadership function of the commander and the work of his staff, as well as that of the political organs, the party organizations and the FDJ, is decisive. Inclusion of the problems of flight safety directly in the process of planning, preparation, conduct and assessment of the combat training of flying personnel presupposes that every official conference is used by the commander and responsible officers of his staff to come to grips with problems that have come up and to overcome them consistently. Among others, the following measures are requisite:

1. It is necessary periodically to analyze the political-moral situation and discipline and order in each situation, to establish measures for further strengthening and improvement.
2. During combat training of flying personnel, constant influence must be exerted on flying, engineer and flight service personnel, in order to hinder careless flying mishaps, especially by effective political-ideological precautions from the beginning. Mistakes and shortcomings must be described and evaluated appropriately.
3. Conscientious checking during the organization and evaluation of combat training should contribute to objective analysis. Main attention must be directed to the precise execution of military directives for strengthening of flight safety.
4. Evaluation of the causes of flight incidents is significant for maintaining a high degree of flight safety. For an authoritative analysis, exact report content, exhaustive investigation, comprehensive evaluation and complete listing of evidence on the causes of flight incidents are important.

The basic documentation for a high degree of flight safety and flight accident-free combat training are the service regulations on organization, conduct, direction and inspection of flights within the scope of the National Peoples' Army, which were put into effect by the Deputy to the Minister and Chief of the Air Force and Air Defense Command at the beginning of the 1973/74 training year. These regulations were worked out on the basis of the experiences of our Soviet brothers-in-arms and are therefore the newest compedium of all knowledge up to the present.

It is the task of all commanders and responsible staff officers, the pilots and members of the engineer-technical crews, the members of flight direction installations, as well as the support personnel of the technical aviation battalions to follow these official regulations literally in their areas and to lead an effective struggle against any deviation and violation.

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TRAINING IN MOVEMENT OF SAM UNIT'S DESCRIBED

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[By Lt Col H. Wolfram]

/Text/ The movement of troop formations, units and military installations to carry out combat operations in other areas belonged and always will belong to military practice. Well-thought-out leadership is necessary to move troop formations and units under modern conditions. Essentially, this is characterized by:

--political-ideological training effort to produce comprehensive readiness on the part of personnel;

--organizational effort of commanders at all levels during the preparation of personnel and equipment;

--training individual troops to carry out correctly all actions during the move according to standards, with a high degree of quality and with initiative;

--maintenance of constant equipment readiness;

--development and strengthening of military discipline and order.

Proceeding from this, the following requirements arise for commanders at all levels:

--All personnel, especially drivers, must be prepared for movement. A high degree of KTE /expansion unknown/ of vehicles and special equipment must be maintained;

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--Special accessories and reserve equipment of the unit are to be stored on vehicles or trains insofar as possible;

--Loading readiness of all supplies and reserves must be assured;

--Combat organization must be activated daily.

How these requirements are fulfilled depends essentially on the state of training of soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of the unit.

Training for constant movement readiness must contain those elements which enable personnel to transfer the unit's special equipment, weapons and equipment under any modern combat situation in vehicular column on the route directed, at the time directed and organized, and to reestablish battle readiness.

Prepare for Movement Thoroughly, Universally and Continually

Preparations for the movement of a unit, and the movement itself, are above all, in their quality and fulfillment of standards, expressions of a thorough, versatile and continuous training process carried out during the whole training year. According to experience, thoroughness, versatility and continuity must be based on the following elements during complex simulated battle training:

--correct tactical conduct during the march and to protection of troops from weapons of mass destruction, as well as reduction of the effects of the use of weapons of mass destruction;

--battle support and the direction of units by means of flag signals, light signals and flares;

--air and chemical weapons surveillance, combat against dissident elements and advanced as well as command reconnaissance;

--accurate driving of combat vehicles, observance of speed limits and vehicle interval and the proper observance of technical halts.

In all SAM units, instructors make great effort to practice and train with these principles, singly and in combination. They have achieved progress in this. We were able to convince ourselves in the units that instructors understand ever better how to prepare personnel for movement through target-oriented training. They especially practice individual procedures, such as the actions of troops when assembling antennas, establishing readiness to move by means of flag signals or flares, reconnaissance and marching after enemy use of weapons of mass destruction, and camouflage practices.

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In this manner the troops of the Ansorg unit of the Ringelhahn formation and the Hacke unit of the Prottengeier formation showed organization in performance, security and speed along with outstanding initiative and action and reaction to tactical situations. These characteristics did not come about in these units by themselves, rather they are the result of practical training in individual activities, up through combined actions of squads, crews, platoons and units.

During exercises the level of training of troops and the degree of integration within teams must be considered. Instructors must critically test which subjects of the training program are suitable to combine with elements of simulation on the part of personnel during a movement.

For example, it is useful to connect the establishment of a march or tactical situation for the technical equipment in a realistic manner with those elements which teach tactical conduct of personnel, advance their capability to perform and which are suitable for the psychological demands of modern warfare. For this it is necessary to establish situations which are similar to those of actual combat and which develop tactical behaviour patterns on the part of troops.

Through dissemination of "Intelligence Information," "Information about the Situation" and so forth, troops can be brought into a "combat environment."

Use Every Opportunity that Presents Itself for the Tactical Scenario

During the establishment of the march or battle situation for technical equipment, a tape recorder or other simulating device can be used to represent strafing attack. Troops must resist the attack.

As a result of the attack, "loss of equipment and personnel" must be simulated and the mission must be accomplished by surviving personnel.

This and other scenarios, for example "dissidents in the defense sector," "use of chemical weapons" develop initiative and combat-like reactions. In order to achieve this, not only must the time and theme allotted to training program be used for applied training, but also every available opportunity. In this manner, on the approach march to individual objectives, such things can be practiced as the development of a squad into battle order and its control in the field, the taking of terrain features by leaps and bounds, creeping and crawling, and procedures for fighting off strafing attacks with infantry weapons.

To this also belong guiding units with flag signals (in daylight) or with flares (nighttime), combat support and conduct while wearing protective clothing.

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Another problem is the development of the abilities and skills of drivers by day and night, in all seasons and weather conditions, on how to drive into position quickly and surely, to detach the equipment and to drive out of position and to get into the march column again. This is a complex of practical work which should be preceded by appropriate theoretical introduction. In the course of this, the instructor explains the sequence of use and warm-up of technical equipment in the march column, camouflage possibilities, the necessity for intervals between one vehicle and another, the proper placement of vehicles in the march column and the signals required for this.

At the appropriate time, driving in the march column is exercised practically with a limited number of moving and transport vehicles. Here it is important to develop skills in driving into the column, holding speed and interval and stopping the column. Furthermore, drivers must be instructed on their duties during technical halts and while recovering disabled vehicles. There are many opportunities to fashion the training interestingly and with variety. It is critical that the scenarios come about logically from the devised tactical situation and are not in contradiction to a logical procession.

It is important that the instructor be able to put the trainees constantly into situations which are most similar to combat, and in which they must conduct themselves as in combat. The degree of intensity of this "combat situation" must be increased systematically and demands on the trainees must be raised to the limit of their abilities. It is precisely during unit movement that situations occur which demand a maximum of tactical ability from combat collectives and the individual. Therefore it is necessary that the instructor develops understanding among trainees as to proper actions, appropriate to the combat situation, and brings about the required skills for them among trainees.

Proper actions of personnel, corresponding to the tactical situation, are characterized by realistic collective and individual behaviour of teams and units. Collective activity must be organized and directed the respective commander. It includes:

- having in readiness protective material for protection against weapons of mass destruction, and its proper application;
- maintenance of constant readiness for action against opponents on the ground and in the air (Organization of all-round defense, air and chemical defense);
- camouflage of personnel and equipment;
- safeguarding technical equipment and security of the unit in all phases of displacement;

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--readiness of personnel to reduce the results of enemy action.

Ability must be developed among troops especially to recognize the kind and degree of damage and to derive proper measures to cope with it.

In order to attain collective action, organizing capabilities and practical skills must be developed by the troops.

Prerequisite for collective action is simulated combat conduct on the part of every army member.

Simulated combat behaviour on the part of each and every army member is determined by his military ability, his capabilities and his skills. It includes:

--proper application and exploitation of his personal equipment, in accordance with the situation at the time;

--proper, quick and innovative reaction to signals and commands, such as "chemical alarm" and "low flying aircraft," and so forth;

--proper tactical movement in the field.

The more thoroughly personnel master subjects learned in individual training and the more intensive the influence of all superiors, the better the units of the field rocket troops will prove themselves in combat-realistic situations during movement. The constant educational influence of all superiors over subordinate personnel, and an intensive political-ideological effort for the preparation and conduct of movement play a decisive role.

INFORMATION PROVIDED ON SOVIET RADAR MAINTENANCE

East Berlin MILITAERWESEN in German Sep 74 pp 119B-122B

[By Major K. -H Lau, engineer, and Cpt R. Röss, engineer]

/Text/ Regular maintenance of radar equipment is a basic prerequisite for its constant combat readiness. The radio troops of the Soviet Army have devoted a great amount of attention to this problem in recent years. In doing this, the Soviet comrades have followed the goal of improving maintenance work and of determining an optimal time for its scheduling and conduct, without diminution in the extent of maintenance.

Valuable experience factors which our Soviet comrades-in-arms have collected thereby are set forth in the article at hand. They are the basis for the radar equipment maintenance system to be introduced in the radio units of the NVA (National Peoples' Army) in the 1974/75 training year.

Kinds of Maintenance Work

Maintenance of radar equipment can be conducted on the calendar principle or on the operational hours principle. In the first case, equipment is maintained on a daily, weekly, monthly or yearly cycle.

The extent of burden placed on the equipment is not considered. At all radar stations of the same type, maintenance work has the same scope, regardless of whether the individual stations have been put into combat action frequently or not. This principle has two advantages:

First, the entire radar system is maintained regularly; second, the planning of the maintenance work is eased.

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From experience it is known that a variable utilization of radar stations demands a varying degree of maintenance. The operational hours principle is matched to this demand. Here, maintenance takes place after expiration of a predetermined number of operational hours.

The advantage in this is that the operational condition of the equipment is taken into consideration. To be sure, it is more difficult to make long range plans for this type of maintenance work.

Experience of the radio units of the Soviet Army shows that it is expedient to combine both principles in a sensible manner.

Certain work must be performed regularly on radar equipment in order to maintain its readiness for use. On the other hand, there is a whole list of maintenance and inspection measures which must be undertaken when the station has been in operation for a predetermined number of hours. Accordingly, the Soviet comrades apportion maintenance work on radar equipment into:

1. Daily functioning checks;
2. The daily inspection;
3. The weekly inspection;
4. Preventive maintenance;
5. The yearly inspection.

The Daily Functioning Check

This has the purpose of testing the radar equipment for readiness for use. Those parameters which give a reliable indication of the functioning capability of the whole installation are checked. As a rule, the equipment is not synchronized during this check. With every electronic apparatus, a certain period of time passes after turning it on until it reached its established parameters. This period of time lies between five and 30 minutes. If during this warming up process, the apparatus is worked on and the nominal output is adjusted by synchronization, the parameters will be outside tolerances in many cases after the end of the warm-up period. This negatively influences the stability of the work. For this reason, synchronization should be avoided during the daily functioning check if the output checked is inside permitted tolerances.

The Daily Inspection

Here the maintenance work is done with the equipment switched off. The following items are checked:

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- the undamaged state of all regulating and control organs;
- the mountings of all blocks and component groups;
- the completeness of accessories;
- the readiness for use of fire extinguishers.

An element of the daily inspection is the clean-up of the station and position.

The Weekly Inspection

During this check all components of the radar station are checked, cleaned and synchronized. Experience shows that it is not necessary to carry out the same complex of work on the radar equipment every week. Certain work is required weekly, some every two weeks and some, however, only once a month.

Hence it follows that the weekly inspections taking place during a single month can vary in scope. In practice, four weekly inspections of the radar equipment are undertaken during the month. Every weekly inspection includes that maintenance and control work which absolutely must be done every week. That work which only has to be carried out monthly or every two weeks was spread out evenly over a period of four weeks. Thus four types of weekly inspection were carried out which differ somewhat in extent and content. With such a breakdown, success was achieved in attaining higher quality, especially in such work which has a determining influence on the readiness for use of radar equipment.

At the same time, it was possible to reduce the monthly down-time for the maintenance of radar equipment.

Preventive Maintenance

Basis for the planning of preventive maintenance is the operational hours principle. In this, all tasks must be taken into consideration, which are dependent on the number of actual operational hours. Important above all are:

- checking and lubrication of the ventilators;
- examination of the syncro transmitter and receiver;
- lubrication of motor and bearings;
- oil change in the gear and potentiometer blocks;

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--adjustment of wave lengths.

Basically, every preventive maintenance session is combined with a weekly inspection. In this, the preventive maintenance work, that is the mechanical tasks, are carried out first. Following this, the electrical check and the synchronization of the radar equipment is conducted as during the regular weekly inspection.

With preventive maintenance a generally new type of maintenance was introduced which makes reduction of wear and tear on the mechanical parts of the radar equipment possible.

The Maintenance Day

Maintenance days for radar equipment have proven themselves in practice for the Soviet comrades-in-arms. On one specific day the major part of the radar equipment of the unit is inspected.

The maintenance day is run by the unit commander. On this day the whole schedule is devoted to maintenance. This contributes substantially, as experience signifies, to a methodical and smooth course of inspection.

Technological Documentation for Maintenance Work

The technological documentation for maintenance has been worked up on the basis of Soviet documents and passed-on experience factors. These documents are the prerequisite for uniform organization and conduct of maintenance work. They are divided into organizational, special and working documentation. These include:

1. Regulations on general maintenance principles,
2. Instructions,
3. Work charts,
4. Sequence diagrams.

The general regulation is the basic document for the maintenance of radar equipment of radio units. It establishes the tasks, responsibility and rights of technical engineer personnel. Furthermore, the regulation governs the planning, organization and conduct of maintenance work. The rules in the maintenance regulation are expanded upon in instructions which have been worked out for every type of radar equipment. The instructions contain the extent of work and the individual work procedures for the daily functioning check, the daily inspection, the weekly inspection and of preventive maintenance.

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Work procedures for the weekly inspection are keyed to four types of inspections. Their frequency is laid down corresponding to their importance. Starting with the demands which work procedures put on the doers, distribution of functions for maintenance work has been undertaken.

The greatest amount of space in the instructions is taken up with methodical tips for each work procedure. These contribute first of all to technically-correct maintenance of blocks and components and second, to target-oriented training of station personnel.

Network and time diagrams are further components of the instructions. They furnish further information on sequences and collaboration during inspections. Lubrication and other tables are to be gleaned out of the instructions as further references.

Work charts are divided into charts for the daily functioning check, the weekly inspection and for preventive maintenance.

Each member of the crew receives a chart for the appropriate inspection. The contents and arrangement of the work charts can be obtained from Table 1. The time diagrams are the performance documents for the chief inspector. They are submitted only once for the weekly inspections (Types 1 to 4) and for preventive maintenance for each station.

The practicality of the work charts and the time diagrams has been confirmed through troop tests.

Tips for the Introduction of the New Maintenance System

In the article, "Using Radar Equipment on a Scientific Basis," Lieutenant Colonel Mett, Graduate Engineer, refers to the adoption of Soviet experience factors.

The new maintenance system has already been tested in one unit of the FuTT /Radio Troops/ during the current training year. Several experience factors have been submitted by this unit. The maintenance system sets new requirements regarding:

- the exercise of influence by commanders and deputies for technology during inspections;
- the role of the senior person on duty at the command post during the organization of inspections;
- the planning and preparation of inspection;
- training of soldiers and noncommissioned officers.

Table 1. Station Chief's Work Chart

Weekly Inspection 03

Work Procedure	Work to be Done	Standard Time	Planned From-To	Remarks
1	Daily inspection	50 min		
2	Condition of blocks in locker 51: Blocks 75, 76, 59, 58, 77	50 min		equipment shut down
3	Condition of blocks in locker 52: Blocks 55, 56, 57, 62	100 min		
5	Condition of blocks in lockers 58 and 59: Blocks 100, 101, 92, 91, 94, 96	60 min		
7	Condition of the antenna brush of the K-/short wave?/ equip- ment	25 min		
8	Condition of the blocks of the K-equipment as well as of blocks 67 and 68	50 min		
18	Performance, power standing wave ratio and performance distribution between antenna levels and the working fre- quency	10 min		equipment turned on
19	Receiver sensitivity on working frequency	10 min		
20	Exactness of coarse channel of AFN	10 min		

It is the task of the commander to synchronize new problems of maintenance, such as reduced time for maintenance and the training of personnel, with all of the other tasks of formations and units.

Planning should contribute to regular and timely maintenance.

In the weekly inspections, work procedures keyed exactly to the four types must be carried out in the prescribed sequence. If a weekly inspection

is omitted, the whole cycle is moved back with a resulting longer period of time without maintenance. Thus, the possibility of radar equipment failure increases.

Starting with a change from the regular time for inspection, new tasks evolve for senior officers on duty at command posts at all levels. It is within their responsibility to authorize the timely commencement of maintenance measures, and to require that they be completed punctually.

Deputies for technology in formations and units must support station chiefs in the preparation and materiel-technical support of inspections and check the quality of maintenance. The station chief exercises the function of chief of inspection in this process. He must thoroughly prepare and strictly direct the weekly inspection and preventive maintenance. Preparation includes the work of the station chief with documentation, personnel and materiel support, training of personnel and his prior check and go-ahead for the inspection. The station chief must furnish help and guidance for complicated work procedures during the maintenance.

He must devote particular attention to the training of his crew for inspections. Experience shows that it is good when soldiers and noncommissioned officers are trained on certain complicated work procedures on the day before the inspection. This contributes to raising the level of technical training. An important element in the station chief's preparation for maintenance work consists of training and teaching personnel thoroughly about safety regulations connected to practical maintenance work. In the course of adopting Soviet experience factors, the best results were noted in the units where new tasks had been clarified and the initiative of everyone aroused. Discussion in the party and FDJ organizations of the unit proved to be very valuable, following which it was possible to introduce maintenance into socialist competition.

Quality of maintenance should also be a point for evaluation of socialist competition in all units in the future.